Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-168
Friday
28 August 1992

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FBIS-SOV-92-168 *28 August 1992*

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Yeltsin Appeals to North Caucasus, Southern Russia for Calm

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an appeal from Russian President Yeltsin to the people of the North Causcasus and southern Russia, which reads in part: "I call on the peoples of the North Caucasus and the entire population of southern Russia to keep their emotions in check and not allow themselves to be drawn into dangerous activity. However they may be inspired, rash actions can threaten the security of Russia itself and the peaceful life and prosperity of every one of us."

President Yeltsin also issued a statement urging broader participation in the talks on Abkhazia slated for 3 September and inviting several leaders of contiguous areas to the talks, ITAR-TASS reports. Yeltsin's statement to the Georgian and Abkhazian leaders was published by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

Yeltsin, Bush Discuss Iraq, Abkhazia

Presidents Bush and Yeltsin talked by telephone, ITAR-TASS reports. Noting that the two discussed Iraq and Abkhazia, a spokesman cited by the agency said "An idea of a possible Russian peace-keeping role in the region was voiced." Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by INTERFAX disclosed that some Russian diplomatic dependents have been evacuated from Baghdad.

Armenia, Azerbaijan Agree to Cease-Fire in Karabakh

ITAR-TASS reports that Armenia and Azerbaijan "are ready to halt hostilities as of 1 September this year" in Nagorno-Karabakh. This was stated in a memorandum adopted by the two countries' foreign ministers on the results of talks on settling the Karabakh conflict being held in Alma-Ata under the sponsorship of Kazhakstan. An accord was also reached on holding a meeting between the presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan on the preparation of a package of relevant documents for the meeting. The sides supported the initiative by Kazakhstan for creating "a tripartite working group of experts to develop a mechanism for a cease-fire and effective control [kontrol] over settling the conflict."

ITAR-TASS also reports that Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan "immediately and unconditionally accepted the proposal of 60-day cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh." The presidential press secretary said that Ter-Petrosyan believes that the cease-fire proposal by the CSCE representative Mario Rafaelli is "extremely important in the present situation, but it lacks mechanisms of cease-fire." He went on to note that international observers, specifically from Russia and Kazakhstan, should monitor the observance of the cease-fire agreement.

United Nations To Supervise Dniester Cease-Fire

ITAR-TASS reports that during a meeting between Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and a UN mission headed by Gilberto Schlitler, in Chisinau, "it was agreed that a group of observers, UN experts, will participate in the monitoring [kontrol] of the observation of the cease-fire conditions and also help overcome any differences which may arise." "Schlitler stressed that the United Nations did not intend to dispatch troops to Moldova. He said that the U.N. plans to give humanitarian aid to the Dniester population."

Tajik President, CIS Commander Meet on Conflict

ITAR-TASS reports that during a conversation between Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev and Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, a "preliminary agreement on the use of the peacekeeping corps, acting in the republic as disengagement forces in the zone of the military conflict, was reached". Rakhman noted that the presence of UN troops within the framework of the collective security treaty is "the last chance for establishing peace in the long-suffering homeland, ravished by interethnic strife."

Departure of Diplomats From Kabul Delayed

LD2708205492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Video report by A. Shkirando from "Novosti" program]

[Excerpt] In spite of all the efforts of diplomatic circles and the mediatory efforts of two well-known jihad leaders, Khales and Nabi Mohammadi, no agreement has yet been reached on a cease-fire in Kabul. Because of this, the evacuation of the personnel of foreign missions, including Russian citizens, is being indefinitely delayed.

[Shkirando] Our fellow-countrymen, the officials from the embassy and the Russian Federation trade mission, are in an extremely complicated situation. They are in essence hostages in the internal Afghan conflict. At present, the external defense of the embassy is being provided by these fighters from the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan]. But, of course, they are unable to prevent the embassy from being shelled or the destruction of its grounds.

Today, the Russian Embassy in Kabul was subjected to shelling once again. In just the first half of the day, 14 shells and mortars exploded on its grounds.

In conditions of an unceasing artillery duel between fighters of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Eslami] and supporters of the Mojahedin loyal to the government it is difficult to determine who is to blame for such a barbaric action. [passage omitted]

Former Soviet Spy Released in South Africa

LD2808100792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0715 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Kulik]

[Text] Johannesburg, 28 Aug (TASS)—A former Soviet spy, Dieter Felix Gerhard, sentenced in 1983 by a South African court to imprisonment for life, was released on Thursday [27 August] from prison by decision of South African President Frederik De Klerk. De Klerk said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin asked him to reconsider the sentence during De Klerk's visit to Russia. The two countries, the president said in a statement for the press published on Thursday evening in Pretoria, held a series of talks which led to mutual understanding. Considering this and a totally new situation in Russia that helped improve relations between the two countries, the president decided to agree with the request of President Yeltsin.

The statement points out that Gerhard was released on Thursday. The African National Congress also pressed for the release of the former South African Navy officer, who worked for the Soviet Union in the interests of undermining the apartheid regime. He joined the ANC when in prison.

IEA World Congress Discusses Market Economy

LD2708210792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2025 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The process of transition from the administrative planning system to a market economy was one of the main subjects of discussion at the world congress of the International Economic Association (IEA). The process is now in progress in one third of the world, IEA President Anthony Atkinson told a news conference here on Thursday [27 August].

The problem of finding a mechanism for such a transition is now moving to the fore in economic science, participants in the news conference believe.

Four hundred and fifty scientists from more than 50 countries had arrived in Moscow to share experience and to study the present-day state of society in the republics of the former Soviet Union and in East European countries.

"Discussions at the congress manifested two points of view on the current processes. Some specialists, both Russian and foreign ones, regard the "shock therapy" as one of ways for a transition to new forms of economic management while others consider that there should be a smooth transition to a market economy. Participants in the forum did not reach a consensus, pleading a multivariant nature of the Western experience, Academician Oleg Bogomolov, in charge of the section dealing with "the economies of countries that are successors to the Soviet Union", told journalists.

The congress will undoubtedly play the role of a catalyst of the Russian economic thought and serve as a stimulus to the comprehension of changes taking place in the country and make it possible to work out recommendations for a further development of the national economy, Academician Abel Aganbegyan, IEA vice-president, emphasised.

Armenia, Azerbaijan Continue Talks in Alma-Ata

Sides Agree to 1 Sep Cease-Fire

LD2708170492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1635 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By Amangeldy Akhmetalimov and Gennadiy Kulagin, KAZTAG correspondents]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 27 August—Armenia and Azerbaijan are ready to halt hostilities as of 1 September this year. This is said in a memorandum the two countries' foreign ministers have adopted on the results of talks on settling the Karabakh conflict. This date was agreed upon today by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev with Abulfaz Elchibey and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia respectively. Also, an accord has been reached on a meeting between the three presidents and on the preparation of a package of relevant documents for the meeting.

It was also noted at the meeting today in Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, that combat actions in Nagorno-Karabakh have no prospects and that it is impossible be resolve the problems of the region through violence.

The sides supported the initiative by Kazakhstan for creating a tripartite working group of experts to develop a mechanism for a cease-fire and effective control [kontrol] over settling the conflict.

Tofik Gasymov and Raffi Hovannisian, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, left Alma-Ata during night.

Kazakh Foreign Minister on Progress

LD2708132492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By KAZATAG-TASS correspondents Ivan Zakharchenko and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata August 27 TASS—The second round of talks between the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kazakhstan to settle the Karabakh conflict was held here in the afternoon.

Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov told journalists after the meeting that the views of the sides were gradually being reconciled. "It is now important," he said, "to find points of contact that would allow the sides to prepare the ground for a settlement between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The Kazakh president, who received the participants in the talks earlier in the day, and I personally, believe that the current negotiations are an important event in themselves. No honest person can remain indifferent when an undeclared war is being waged between two peoples that had lived peacefully side-by-side a short while ago. We know that ceasefire agreements were concluded between the conflicting sides in the past, too. Unfortunately, they were not fulfilled. And we sincerely hope that today's talks will not be one more formality."

"It is not an easy job to pursue a peace-making policy," Suleymenov stated. "It is usually attacked both from the right and the left sides. Hence, very thoroughly thought out approaches are needed. We proceed from the fact Azerbaijan and Armenia are members of the United Nations. Both republics have signed the Helsinki Act and, as sovereign states, they can and must embark upon the road of settling the conflict with the help of mediators."

After a brief rest, the ministers got together again to finally formulate their stands on problems under discussion.

Baku Reaction to Kazakh Mediation

MK2708185192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report under "Diplomacy" rubric: "Nursultan Nazarbayev: Mediator in Karabakh Conflict—Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Kazakh Foreign Ministers Meet in Alma-Ata"]

[Excerpts] A delegation from Azerbaijan's foreign policy department, headed by [Foreign] Minister Tofik Gazymov, flew to Alma-Ata during the evening of 25 August. Before leaving Baku, Gasymov stressed in a statement for the local press that, as before, Azerbaijan advocates a political solution to the Karabakh question through talks. "We believe," he said, "that the Armenian side will finally understand the senselessness of this war." As the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry Information Department announced, Gasymov met with Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov in Alma-Ata 26 August and discussed the question of opening authorized missions for Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in the two republics' capitals. Questions concerning political and economic cooperation between the two countries were also broached. It is expected that during the 27 August tripartite talks at the level of the foreign policy department heads of Azerbaijan, Armenia (Raffi Hovannisian intended to fly to Alma-Ata yesterday evening), and Kazakhstan, Tofik Gasymov will expound the Azerbaijani side's terms which, once fulfilled, will render possible a cease-fire in the region of the hostilities.

The lightning speed with which Baku reacted officially to the proposal by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to conduct tripartite consultations under that republic's mediation leads one to conclude that the Azerbaijani leadership would like to see a Muslim country in the capacity of mediator in settling the conflict—a country like Kazakhstan, which would not permit any infringement of Azerbaijan's sovereign rights. [passage omitted]

A directive by [Azerbaijani] President Elchibey, tasking the Defense Ministry and Internal Affairs Ministry with preparing proposals on measures to ensure the call-up for active military service, mobilize men liable for service,

and put a stop to desertion in the ranks of the national army was published in the local press 26 August. Territorial defense staffs under the executive organs of power were tasked with coordinating the examination of questions connected with the evasion by citizens of the republic of active military service and mobilization.

Shaposhnikov Arrives in Dushanbe To Stop Crisis

LD2708133192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By TIA "KHOVAR" correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 27 TASS—Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Armed Forces, arrived in Tajikistan on Thursday [27 August]. Tajik Premier Akbar Mirzoyev, high-ranking Army officers and other officials met Shaposhnikov at the Dushanbe airport.

Shaposhnikov told journalists in an interview at the airport that "he arrived in Tajikistan at the invitation of Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev, and his aim is to discuss CIS stronger borders in the south and to find a way to prevent a conflict in Tajikistan".

"The main thing," he said, "is to stop bloodshed in Tajikistan when new flash points of confrontation emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union".

Shaposhnikov is accompanied by a group of military observers who were dispatched by the Defence Ministries of Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on a peace mission. They will go to Tajikistan's hot points to study and appraise the situation.

The commander-in-chief plans to meet Tajik President Rakhmon Nabiyev today.

Information on New Visa Rules for Tourists

OW2708183892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Intourist, the largest tourism company in the CIS has prepared information about the new visa regulations passed by the govenments of the former Soviet republics.

One peculiarity of the new rules is connected with the recently established border between Russia and the Baltic States. In order to take a trip including Russia and Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (or any one of these countries) which entails returning across the Russian border after entering the Baltic States from Russia (for example, Moscow- Riga-St. Petersburg), a traveller must now attain a "double-entry" visa to return to Russia.

Procedure for receiving Russian tourist visas have not been changed for for Intourist clients.

Russian visas are valid for trips to Belarus, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, even if a traveller's itinerary does not include destinations in Russia. In order to return to Russia after visiting one of these countries a double-entry visa is not required.

Russian visas are not valid for trips to Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. A visa must be attained from these countries prior to visiting their territory (whether or not the travel route includes Russia).

The Baltic States are considered one visa zone, allowing a traveller with a visa from one of these countries to visit all three. Prior to travelling to Russia from one of these countries a double-entry Russian visa must be obtained from the Russian embassy in Tallin or Riga (as of yet there is no Russian diplomatic representation in Vilnius).

Tourist visas to Russia may be obtained: —In Russian emabassies and consulates and in the Moscow airports Sheremetevo I and Sheremetevo II. The visa costs from US $50-110 depending on place of issue and time given for its preparation.

Ukrainian visas may be obtained in Ukrainian embassies and consulates (in the U.S., Canada, Germany, France, Austria, Greece, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary). A visa may also be obtained at customs points in Izmail, Chop, Uzhgorod, Mostiska, Shegini, at airports in Simferopl, Lvov, Odessa, Borispol (Kiev), and at ports in Yalta, Odessa and Ilichevsk. The visa's price varies between US$30-50.

An Uzbek visa may be acquired at the Tashkent airport. The visa costs from US$30-50.

For trips to Belarus or Moldova which do not include Russia a foreign tourist can obtain a visa on the border. Entry points to Belarus are in Brest and Gradno and in the Minsk 2 airport, and visas cost US $40 each. Moldovan visas may be obtained at entry points in Leusheny and Ungeny and at the Chisinau airport for US $50.

If a travel route includes entry to the Baltic States from Russia, a visa for these countries may be obtained at their embassies, at customs points on the Russian border or at the Vilnius, Kaunas, Tartu, Tallinn and Riga aiports. An Estonian visa costs US $10, a Latvian visa US $5-20, and a Lithuanian visa US $15.

Any questions may be directed to Intourist's press service at tel: 924-60-58, 925-50-96

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Aug

LD2808091892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0443 GMT 28 Aug 92

["Press review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 28 TASS—Newspapers highlight today tragic developments in Abkhazia and the talks between foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and

Kazakhstan, which started in Alma-Ata on Thursday [27 August] for the purpose of finding a way to settle the military conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

TRUD, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA write that the situation in the Northern Caucasus sharply deteriorated recently following the aggravation of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. "In some cases the constitution and the existing legislation are being violated. Thus, the Confederation of Highland Nations of the Caucasus, which is an unregistered public association, announced that it was beginning combat operations against the Republic of Georgia", TRUD writes. At the same time, according to the press, the echo of the conflict reached the cities of Adler and Sochi, in the Krasnodar territory of Russia. A helicopter without identification marking brought under missile fire the Kometa passenger motor vessel sailing from Batumi to Sochi. Twelve people were injured, and four of them gravely wounded.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries the appeals of President Yeltsin to the Georgian and Abkhazian leaders, to the peoples of the Northern Caucasus and to the population of southern Russia in general. The first appeal points to the need for "stopping immediately combat operations and the use of force by both sides." This is the only step that paves the way to a dialogue, the appeal says. "Our stand with regard to the unity and territorial integrity of Georgia remains unchanged. Russia does not support separatist and bellicose calls, no matter who they come from. We shall take all necessary measures for stopping the attempts of armed volunteer detachments to penetrate Georgia's territory," the document stresses.

The second appeal urged North Caucasian nations and all residents of southern Russia in general to hold in check their emotions and not to let themselves being drawn into a dangerous venture. The document points out that "ill-considered actions, no matter what emotions inspire them, can jeopardize the security of Russia, peace and wellbeing of each of us." The appeal expresses confidence that "the way out of the current confrontation can be found only through the comprehensive ensurance of human rights, through the harmonious combination of the interests of all nations living in Georgia."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA sets forth the letter sent by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, to Boris Yeltsin, in which he expressed confidence that his meeting with the Russian president, scheduled for September 3, "will promote the restoration of peace in Abkhazia and South Ossetian regions."

Touching upon the talks of foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kazakhstan, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that, judging by some statements made there, "they have managed to find ways to mutual understanding." Responding to the question of journalists why Russia is not taking part in the talks, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said that the conflict is affecting all CIS member state in equal degree. In these conditions "the importance of any peace initiatives cannot be overestimated. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan agree to Kazakhstan playing the part of a mediator, because they believe in its impartiality and interest in a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

TRUD sets forth a statement made by first deputy chairman of the Russian Government [passage indistinct] of social activity, but the coalition government will hold out in office," he said. The newspaper writes about the latest government resolution dealing with the development of priority industries, which was mentioned by Shumeyko during the news conference, and describes it as the most important of all the government documents adopted recently. According to the newspaper, the essence of the programme is as follows: "The state will render protectionist support for those enterprises, irrespective of what industry they belong to, whose products can stand competition on the world market [passage indistinct]. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries fragments of an interview of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who took part in the conference, with the ITN TV programme of Britain. "Moscow's policy with regard to Serbia consists in the following: On the one hand, we are trying to help those in Belgrade who hold a reasonable stand, and, on the other hand, we seek to isolate the aggressive forces," he said.

Yeltsin, Bush Discuss Economic, Political Issues

LD2808072592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0715 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 28 TASS—The Russian and U.S. Presidents, Boris Yeltsin and George Bush, discussed economic and political issues in a telephone conversation late on Thursday, according to Russian presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov.

Bush informed his Russian counterpart that the U.S. Congress adopted the freedom support law which, in practice, envisages support to economic reforms and democratic transformations in Russia.

Yeltsin briefed the U.S. President on the new stage of economic reforms in Russia, on financial aspects of transition to a market economy and on privatisation process, according to Kostikov.

The presidents also exchanged opinions on the situation in various "hotbeds". Yeltsin told the U.S. President about his efforts to end the conflict in Abkhazia, while Bush informed his Russian counterpart on the latest developments concerning Iraq. An idea of a possible Russian peace-keeping role in the region was voiced during the conversation, the spokesman said.

Commentator Discusses U.S. Defense Budget

LD2708222392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Excerpts] One of the key points of debates during the current election campaign in the United States, the first one since the cold war, is the future budget of the Pentagon. Vladislav Kozyakov has the details:

It would seem that this time Americans would have a choice in military spending because Republican leaders assure their voters that the Democrats are verging on irresponsible in their approach to the defense budget. However, their figures related to planned spending in this sphere prove that the difference between the two parties is not so great. The Republican candidate, George Bush, has suggested spending $1.42 trillion on defense in the next five years, while the Democratic candidate, Bill Clinton, thinks $1.36 trillion would be enough. The difference is only 60 billion. The figure can hardly conceal the common point of the two proposals, and this common point is that both parties actually suggest keeping military spending at the Cold War level for five more years.

Why spend such giant sums on armaments and troops now? The question is the more appropriate as America is not threatened by the prospect of global rivalry with any power in the foreseeable future. In this respect Russia has definitely assumed the strategy of a peaceful future. This year alone it has slashed orders on armaments by 68 percent.

As for the hot spots and local conflicts that exist and will continue appearing on the globe for a long time, they threaten other countries as well as the United States. But these threats and dangers cannot require the means and resources comparable with the years of confrontation between Moscow and Washington.

After the end of the Cold War, political priorities have changed, of course. The most important questions are what should be done to the giant military mechanisms, how to channel resources of economic development and peaceful economic competition in the international arena. These questions face many countries, but first of all Russia and the United States. Those American politicians are mistaken who view the rapid speed of the reduction of military spending and production in Russia only as indications of the economic hardships experienced by the country. The main thing is that Moscow has radically altered its strategy and military doctrines which are now aimed at sufficient defense and the conversion of the economy, its' integration in the world market economy. Different as the situations in Russia and America are, one can find points of similarity. [passage omitted]

These aims can hardly be reached by Americans if they continue one or one and a half trillion dollars on military purposes every five years.

U.S. Said Expanding Intelligence Operations

PM2708092792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with an unnamed "former Soviet foreign intelligence station chief" by Yuriy Vladimirov; date, place not given: "War in Tails"]

[Excerpts] I have had my latest meeting with a former Soviet foreign intelligence station chief. The first meeting, I would recall, ended with the question of whether there is a need for intelligence in an era when states that used to be enemies have become "friends." [passage omitted]

[Vladimirov] The Americans themselves are in no hurry to break the cover of [rasshifrovat] their agents in the former East bloc countries.

[Station chief] Moreover, when Robert Gates was appointed CIA director late last year the White House administration head stressed the need for the United States to have a strong intelligence community in order to block the way to anyone who refuses to play by U.S. rules. A close reading of the reports from overseas in our newspapers and quotes from the U.S. press (another form of collecting information) allows us to conclude that the U.S. special services are being restructured. Their leaders believe that the widely practiced method of using technical means of intelligence-gathering provides a picture, but does not convey the mood of society which would allow forecasts to be made about the development of events. For that reason the training of "people in the

field" is being expanded. This means people with a good knowledge of foreign languages, able to find their feet in the country where they are posted, and able to understand and assess economic information on such diverse problems as foreign-exchange operations, trade policy, and new commercial technologies. As "cover" they should be working for joint ventures or as consultants in economic structures. These "live sources" are, I believe, already operating in our country. Otherwise what would be the basis of the conclusions reached by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the NEW YORK TIMES article published in IZVESTIYA? Manipulating the wording slightly and dropping the propaganda appeals, I, as a professional, would highlight the main arguments the author uses to appeal to Americans to help the former USSR immediately:

"President Yeltsin and the other reformers are trying to build a modern economic free market on the ruins of communism. The task facing them is unusually difficult and is compounded by political unrest and substantial economic difficulties.

"The problems of the former Soviet Union are too huge for one country to cope with alone. Within the framework of a policy that I call collective involvement, we are pooling our efforts with the other major industrially developed democracies, the IMF, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

"Events in the former Soviet Union are developing quickly and we must keep up with them in order to help shape them.

"Our help cannot guarantee that they (I mean the reformers) will succeed.

"If the Russian and other reformers fail, if democracy crumbles and an authoritarian regime returns..., we would all lose out. Defense budgets would grow again, and the fear of confrontation with which we lived for the 40 years of the cold war probably would return." [station chief ends]

These sentences represent a collation of intelligence information garnered from television, newspapers, rallies, flea markets, and direct contact with industrial, financial, and commercial structures in our country. Does this analysis of the situation and the conclusion drawn from it indicate that U.S. intelligence is a tool for safeguarding the state's national interests?

I would like to add that Baker's arguments were so convincing that the House of Representatives approved a bill on massive economic and financial aid and moral support for the current Russian Government. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Evacuates Dependents From Iraq

OW2708134692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1313 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the past few days some of the people from Russia and other CIS countries, largely the wives and children of members of Russian offices, have left Iraq, DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent was told at Russia's Foreign Ministry on Thursday. According to the Ministry spokesman, "there is no real danger at the moment; that was an ordinary measure of precaution which has no political context and which was prompted primarily by concern for people's safety".

At present there are some 60 CIS citizens in Baghdad. They are prepared to leave the country urgently, if need be. Nevertheless the Foreign Ministry spokesman said he hopes that "this will not be required".

In these circumstances, the diplomat explained, they took into account the experience of two years ago, when as a result of the Kuwait crisis and the ensuing war in the Persian Gulf nearly 8,000 former Soviet citizens had to be evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait.

According to unconfirmed data received from other sources, all members of Russia's trade mission are to leave Iraq before mid September. As for the embassy staff, it will be reduced to 3-7 people. The evacuation is taking place by the usual means: by bus to Amman (Jordan), and then by "Aeroflot" planes.

The latest developments in Afghanistan also point to the need to take preparatory steps in this direction. It's common knowledge that some 300 Russian citizens were compelled to take refuge in shelters in the compound of the Russian embassy in Kabul. As a result of intensive armed clashes between the supporters of the Rabbani government and its opponents the embassy compound has virtually been blocked, which makes it impossible to start evacuating its inhabitants with appropriate safety guarantees.

Comment Examines No-Fly Zone

LD2708144192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton]

[Excerpts] A restricted air zone is established in south Iraq on Thursday [27 August] evening. [passage omitted] Yuriy Solton comments:

[Passage omitted] Baghdad has said that it will defy the ban and accused Western countries of a conspiracy and aggression. Saddam Husayn has urged the Iraqi people to let no one (?sell its rights). There have been threats of using anti-aircraft weapons. Yet one has to admit it was

Saddam Husayn himself who provoked the allies to launch this operation. As a matter of fact the Baghdad regime declared war on its own people in the south and preserved the economic blockade in the north. United Nations relief aid operations to the Iraqi people have also been blocked. The activity of United Nations inspectors seeking to enforce the elimination of the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction has met with resistance that sometimes looks like bargaining and sometimes like sabotage.

One must not rule out other military actions against Iraq if Baghdad does not give up its tactic of sabotaging United Nations resolutions. This march of events would spell tragedy for the Iraqi people and pose a serious threat to security in the region. Peaceful ways of settling the crisis must be looked for. Much depends on whether Saddam Husayn displays common sense or takes the risk of starting an armed conflict.

Kozyrev Attends London Conference on Yugoslavia

Notes 'Unity of Aspirations'

LD2708190592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1825 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Voronkov, Yuriy Levchenko, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] London August 27 TASS—The main peculiarity of the present international London Conference on the former Yugoslavia is that realistic possibilities have now appeared to combine the efforts of all the parties concerned in settling this major problem, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said during a meeting with Russian journalists who cover the conference proceedings.

"Such a unity of aspirations was not observed before. With the emergence of democratic Russia, we actively joined in the Yugoslav peace process. We have resources to counter those who seek to fan up the conflict," Kozyrev said.

"It is necessary to recognise that all individual initiatives in this respect, by Russia and France, in particular, did not produce concrete results, although they were utterly necessary and correct. A collective realisation of the importance of joint efforts towards a solution to the problem has come only now," the minister emphasised.

Another peculiarity of the London conference is that, although ex-Yugoslav Republics tried to act independently in this respect, their attempts were not crowned with success either; this is why all Yugoslav Republics and all warring sides are present here, he said.

The central idea of the conference, Kozyrev believes, was to provide the conflicting sides with a clear-cut alternative: Either to take the road of peace and concord or to go ahead with armed actions, stirring up aggressive nationalism, which would inevitably lead to an impasse, Kozyrev said.

This, he emphasised, would signify a toughening of sanctions, international isolation, etc. If the forces of reason and concord come to prevail in Serbia and Montenegro and in the new Yugoslavia, the world community will render all-round support to them in joining the family of European peoples.

The approval of one-year settlement principles by participants in the conference and the setting up of six working groups to consider all aspects of the problem were the major result, Kozyrev believes. Russia suggested that a conference mechanism be set up to closely monitor the already adopted and future obligations, the minister stressed.

The danger of an internationalisation of the conflict exists in principle, but the importance of the London conference is also in the fact that the forum is aimed first all at averting such a development of events, Kozyrev said.

At the conference, Russia came forward with an initiative concerning the problem of ethnic minorities, the Russian minister said.

"We are in favour of granting to all of them a full array of rights and a definite legal status on the basis of free expression of the people's will and negotiations with the authorities", Kozyrev stated.

On the other hand, he believes, the establishment of independent territories and individual states would inevitably lead to armed conflicts. Such a solution to the problem is unrealistic so far, and this stand is on the whole shared by participants in the conference, he added.

Interviewed on Peace Talks

LD2708222492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Correspondent V. Shishkovskiy report from London on 27 August; from the "Novosti" newscast—first paragraph read by announcer]

[Text] In London today, the participants in the Yugoslav conflict were in essence presented with an ultimatum. This was done by [British Prime Minister] John Major on behalf of Great Britain and the countries of the EC. If we do not get cooperation, pressure will increase inexorably. There will be condemnation and isolation, no trade, and no aid.

[Begin recording] [Shishkovskiy] The conference proposed that all the conflicting sides should join in implementing a program of actions for a peaceful settlement of this crisis. The forum also adopted a number of other documents aimed at achieving a firm and stable peace in the Balkans.

In your view, have the hopes that were linked with the London conference been justified? How would you personally comment on its results.

[Kozyrev] I think the conference has justified itself. The European Community has been active for two years. All the time they were waiting and promising that a settlement would come about at any moment. Nothing came of that. Here these efforts have come together. It became clear that we cannot resolve this problem without each other.

The second thing is that for the first time all the interested sides are taking part in this conference. All of them, including Serbia, Montenegro, and the new Yugoslavia, are represented here by their leaders. And, finally, all the other Yugoslav republics are present here. This is something else that gives hope. And now agreement is being outlined on a whole range of fundamental questions including ones that we raised such as the impermissibility of changing republican borders, the impermissibility of seizing territory by force, the impermissibility of ignoring the rights of ethnic minorities, and, on the other hand, of these minorities' seceding from the state formations that have appeared, and so on. [end recording]

UN Envoy on Abstention in Bosnia Vote

PM2708113792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "UN General Assembly Has Voted Down Russian Representative's Amendment"]

[Text] New York—The UN General Assembly has demanded that the parties involved in the Balkan crisis should immediately halt hostilities and formulate a peaceful solution in line with the UN Charter and the principles of international law to find a way out of the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In the resolution adopted Tuesday [25 August] at its resumed 46th session, the General Assembly called on the Security Council to urgently review the possibility of taking additional measures stipulated in the UN Charter to stop hostilities and restore the unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The adopted resolution contains a demand that subunits of the Yugoslav People's Army and elements of the Croatian army should be withdrawn from Bosnia-Hercegovina. The General Assembly condemned the massive violations of human rights in Bosnia-Hercegovina and demanded an immediate end to the practice of "ethnic cleansing."

The resolution demands "an immediate end to any interference from outside Bosnia-Hercegovina" and a guarantee of a "safe, unconditional, and honorable repatriation of refugees and deported persons."

During the discussion of the draft resolution, the Russian delegation introduced an amendment to the preamble in an attempt to give due objectivity to an assessment of the situation. It was basically suggested that an excerpt from the UN secretary general's report should be added to the draft, which reads: "...international observers have no doubts that certain regions of Bosnia-Hercegovina are under the control of Croatian military subunits which are either part of local territorial defense forces and paramilitary groups or the Croatian army."

However, the submitted amendment was blocked by the coauthors of the draft resolution. Consequently the Russian Federation delegation abstained when it came to the vote. "On the basis of its principled position, our delegation supports and agrees with the basic drift of the adopted resolution on an urgent peace settlement of the Bosnian conflict and the defense of human rights in that country," Yuriy Vorontsov, Russian Federation permanent representative at the United Nations, said after the vote. "To our regret," he continued, "we were unable to support the draft in its present form, since we cannot agree with attempts to find a peaceful solution that are complicated by a selective approach to the reports and assessments of the UN secretary general with regard to the extremely complicated situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Russian Federation," Yu. Vorontsov stressed in conclusion, "will continue to consistently favor a peaceful political solution to the Bosnian crisis through talks."

German Foreign Minister To Visit 7-8 Oct

LD2808054692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0541 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] London August 28 TASS—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel will visit Russia on October 7-8, according to an agreement reached late on Thursday between Kinkel and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev. They both participated in the London conference on former Yugoslavia.

German finance minister will also visit Russia. A visit of Chancellor Helmut Kohl may take place in the end of the year, the foreign ministers agreed.

Kinkel highly assessed the "balanced position of the Russian diplomacy towards Serbia". Germany counts on Russian influence and hopes it will play a positive role in normalising the situation in the region, he said.

Kinkel thanked the Russian leadership for helping to solve the "Honecker case" which he said had played an important role in the relations between the two countries. The positive solution of the case will add trust to relations between the peoples of the two countries, according to Kinkel.

Kozyrev Invites CSFR Counterpart

LD2808055292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0546 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Voronkov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] London August 28 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev invited his Czechoslovakian counterpart Jozef Moravcik to visit Russia. The time of the visit will be determined later, the ministers agreed at their meeting in London on Thursday where they attended the conference on former Yugoslavia.

Kozyrev and Moravcik discussed bilateral relations and prospects of a peaceful settlement in former Yugoslavia. They agreed that the London conference will give a new impact to a speedy and practical solution of the conflict by political means.

Returns to Moscow

LD2808012492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0105 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Aug—Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev tonight returned to Moscow from his visit to Great Britain. He was taking part in the international London conference on the former Yugoslavia. Participants in the conference have examined the complex of problems connected with the settlement of the crisis in Bosnia and Hercegovina and have defined the concrete program of actions in this area.

Yeltsin Asks More Participants in Abkhazia Talks

LD2708182392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 27 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin proposed expanding the number of participants on the conference to settle the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia, according to the presidential press-service.

On Wednesday, Yeltsin sent telegrams to Russia's southern regions and northern Caucasus.

Apart from delegations from Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia, he invited delegations from Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, northern Ossetia, Adygeya, the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories and the Rostov region to take part in the conference, according to the same source.

Yeltsin's move was prompted by the desire to create a wide basis for the settlement, taking into account the need for a fair solution to new problems and observance of the legitimate interests and rights of all the parties concerned.

The Russian delegation will consist of Boris Yeltsin, Georgiy Khizha, Pavel Grachev and Andrey Kozyrev. The composition of the Georgian and Abkhazian delegations will be announced later.

The delegations are scheduled to meet in Moscow on September 3.

Appeals to Georgia, Abkhazia Leaders

PM2708182592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 92 p 1

["Appeal from the Russian President to the Leadership of Georgia and Abkhazia"]

[Text] Events in Abkhazia are a source of great pain to the Russians. People are dying, and material assets are being destroyed. Heavy combat equipment is being used against civilians. A tense situation is also forming in the North Caucasus republics, where separatist forces and extremists of various hues are trying to exploit the state of affairs for their own selfish ends. The situation is being exacerbated by the appearance of refugees flooding into areas of southern Russia. The huge multiethnic region is faced with the threat of destabilization.

It is vital to immediately put an end to combat actions and the use of military force on both sides. That is the only thing that can open the way to dialogue.

Our position with respect to Georgia's unity and territorial integrity is immutable. Russia does not support separatist and bellicose appeals, regardless of who issues them. We will take all necessary measures to end attempts by armed voluntary detachments to infiltrate Georgian territory. At the same time, we are convinced of the need to immediately withdraw troops and end combat actions, as well as ensure human rights and the lawful interests of the Abkhaz people and the other peoples of Georgia.

I call on you to display statesmanship and a feeling of responsibility for the future of our peoples. I am convinced that there is no problem that cannot be resolved at the negotiating table. Your peacemaking efforts will be ensured the unconditional support of Russia and the entire civilized community.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

Official Against Supreme Soviet Talks

LD2708142992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1318 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinnitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—"Of course, we could convene an extraordinary session of the Russian Supreme Soviet to discuss the situation that has arisen in connection with events in Abkhazia. Such demands are being put forward. But what would be the result? We would adopt another appeal and shake our fists a bit, but for the moment we are not prepared to do anything more constructive," said Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Parliament, today.

In an interview with an ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent and RIA, he pointed out that actions to normalize the situation "must take place at the level of

the president and the executive." In this connection, Filatov singled out the particular significance of the upcoming meeting between the president of Russia, the chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Georgia, and representatives of Abkhazia and the North Caucasian republics. The Russian parliamentarian reported that, as a result of the measures adopted, it has already been possible to cease fire, apart from individual sorties.

It is essential to withdraw Georgian troops and volunteer formations from Abkhazia and to close the Russian border and passes with Georgia strictly so that "there is no access to the groups of armed individuals that the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus is gathering together and that are, according to our information, being made ready in Chechnya," Sergey Filatov said in conclusion.

Deputies Report on Abkhaz Situation

PM2708101592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Linkov: "Fire Could Spread to Russia"]

[Text] A press conference of Russian deputies who have returned from the trouble spot of Abkhazia has been held in the White House. Those present were told by People's Deputy A. Surkov, the leader of the delegation, that one of the main aims of the trip was to study the situation on the spot and the state of the Russian troops stationed here and to meet with leaders of the Abkhazian parliament and the Georgian State Council and the ascertaining of the real reason for the conflict.

On the basis of the results of the trip a resolution was adopted which says that all questions in this region must be resolved only by political means. A demand has been made that Georgia should ensure t he safe exit of all refugees. Alarm is expressed that the conflict which has erupted on the border with Russia could spread at any time to Russia's territory. There is no support for the initiative of the confederation of mountain peoples of the Caucasus since an armed and uncontrolled mass of people could lead to even more bloodshed. Many people have already died during the clashes, including Russian citizens.

In the opinion of delegation member G. Sayenko, the Georgian leadership had no need to bring troops into Abkhazia. Its people have the right to autonomy and it is the Abkhazian side which has suggested concluding a federative treaty.

The parliamentarians spoke with particular concern of the serious danger the Abkhazian conflict presents to neighboring republics. The Supreme Soviet is also concerned by this problem. According to existing information in the next few days it is planned to send to this troubled region another group of Russian deputies who will try to find ways of reconciling the opposing sides.

Deputy Sees 'Another Afghanistan'

MK2708141592 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 1

[Yuriy Zaynashev report: "Baburin in the Caucasus"]

[Text] A few days ago a group of Russian deputies led by Sergey Baburin flew to Georgia. As a suntanned Baburin said in an interview for MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, on the territory allegedly controlled by the Committee for Governing Abkhazia [Komitet po Upravleniyu Abkhaziyey], organized by the Georgian faction of the local parliament, all kinds of violence are being witnessed and confusion reigns. Baburin went on to say that it is not known why all the criminals were released from Sukhumi prison. The Russian military in Gudauta have assured him that, so far, there is calm on the territory under Abkhaz parliament and army control.

Baburin and his colleagues made this flight on their own initiative—to spite the Russian Supreme Soviet official delegation. In Tbilisi, Baburin saw Shevardnadze and got the impression that the State Council National Guard is not marching to Eduard's beat and is not really controlled by anybody.

As a member of the Supreme Soviet Legislative Committee, Baburin interpreted the legal situation thus: Abkhazians willingly joined hands with the Russian tsar in 1810. Abkhazia joined Georgia twice: once in 1918 through occupation by Menshevik troops, and again in 1931 at Stalin's behest. Tbilisi abolished the Georgian Constitution of the Brezhnev years and restored the 1921 Constitution, which makes no particular mention of Abkhazia. So, Soviet Abkhazia went back to living under its own 1926 Constitution, in line with which it is incorporated into the USSR directly, and not through the Georgian SSR.

In the view of former Afghan soldier Baburin, if Tbilisi wants to avoid another Afghanistan on its own territory, then it would do well to recall its troops from Abkhazia without delay.

Protocol Said Confirms Georgia Border

MK2708135092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 25 Aug 92 p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Krutikov under "Nearby Foreign Countries" rubric: "One More Private Protocol With Georgia"]

[Text] According to confidential information, Georgian First Deputy Foreign Minister Dzhaparidze and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Lavrov have signed a protocol in Moscow on the inviolability of borders, under which Russia once again confirms the current border along the Psou River and the watershed of the Main Caucasus range and renounces possible territorial claims against Georgia. Russia has thus once again confirmed its desire to see a unitary Georgia as its neighbor.

According to certain information, under this protocol Georgian border troops could occupy the south portal of the Rokskiy [as transliterated] tunnel on the road linking Tskhinvali, Vladikavkaz, and the Russian-Georgian border in the very near future. The south portal is currently being held by Russian units of the "peacekeeping forces." On the border with Abkhazia along the Psou River, observers have noted the coordination of actions between Russian troops and the Georgian expeditionary corps conducting a battle in the settlement of Leselidze.

The protocol signed in Moscow means that Russia has effectively recognized Georgian sovereignty over Abkhazia and South Ossetia. For understandable reasons the protocol has not been publicized, like the Dagomys agreements' six secret chapters which are unknown to this day.

Khasbulatov Promotes Peace Treaty With Japan

PM2608115592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Aug 92 First Edition p 2

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center report under the "Visit" rubric: "R.I. Khasbulatov Receives Delegation of Japanese Governors"]

[Text] R.I. Khasbulatov received a delegation of Japanese governors led by Shunichi Suzuki, governor of Tokyo and chairman of the National Council of Japanese Governors, in the House of Soviets on 24 August. The delegation is in Moscow at the invitation of the Union of Russian Federation Heads of Administration.

Welcoming the guests, the Supreme Soviet chairman stressed the importance of cooperation between the local authority organs of both countries, which have been urged to assist in finding a solution to socioeconomic and other problems of the regions and their inhabitants.

Shunichi Suzuki noted that contacts between the governors of the two neighboring countries are useful and effective in promoting Russian-Japanese relations, and stressed that the leaders of Japan's local organs of power are keen to see the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty between the two countries and the success of B.N. Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Japan.

R.I. Khasbulatov spoke highly of the peacemaking ideas coming out of the National Council of Japanese Governors, and confirmed his position on the problems of bilateral relations which he expounded during the visit by a Russian parliamentary delegation to Japan last year.

"The Russian parliament unequivocally favors the immediate conclusion of a peace treaty between our countries," R.I. Khasbulatov stated. "As a politician and a scholar, it seems to me unnatural that at the end of the 20th century there is no peace treaty between our countries. We can argue about various problems, but the immediate conclusion of a treaty has to be separated from the other contentious issues. Otherwise the world community might regard our two countries' positions as immoral. After all, the problem of peace between peoples is not something that can be haggled over."

In conclusion, answering a question about the existing multitude of diverse Russian-Japanese agreements under discussion, the Supreme Soviet chairman stressed:

"There should be just one target—a peace treaty. Our countries will resolve the remaining issues."

Kunadze Suggests Resort to Third Party

OW2608131192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1224 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 26 KYODO—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze told a delegation of governors from Japan on Wednesday that the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration should be considered a step toward the signing of a Tokyo-Moscow peace treaty.

Kunadze told the governors that he does not foresee the signing of a peace treaty during President Boris Yeltsin's scheduled visit to Japan in September but suggested it necessary to consider the 1956 declaration as the foundation to concluding a peace treaty.

The deputy foreign minister said it would be impossible to conclude a treaty with Japan's demands that its sovereignty over four disputed islands off the coast of the eastern tip of Hokkaido be recognized.

He said, however, that the responsibility of reverting the islands of Shikotan and of the Habomai group to Japan as spelled out in the 1956 agreement would be confirmed after the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Kunadze also suggested the possibility Yeltsin would propose during his visit a schedule for concrete negotiations on the fate of Etorofu and Kunashiri, the larger of the disputed islands known as the "northern territories" in Japan.

Asked about the possibility of entrusting the decision of the islands to the International Court of Justice, Kunadze said he would like to see the issue resolved through bilateral negotiations but added he would not exclude it as a means to ending the decades old dispute.

It was the first time that a Russian government official has mentioned turning the issue to a third party.

The now defunct Soviet Union agreed in 1956 to return Shikotan and the Habomai group to Japan as part of the deal to formally end hostilities with the fate of the two larger islands to be negotiated later.

The joint declaration, however, was abrogated by the Kremlin when Japan renewed its security agreement with the United States.

On Wednesday, Kunadze explained to the Japanese governors that the domestic situation in Russia makes it difficult for Moscow to agree to return the islands but

said he wants to see the question resolved by this generation and not the next.

Deputy Says Kuril Transfer Untimely

OW2708181792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Defence and Security leader, Sergey Stepashin, believes that Moscow should play "a very shrewd diplomatic game" with Japan in the Kuril islands dispute. In an answer to an IF [INTERFAX] query concerning Boris Yeltsin's coming visit to Japan, Sergey Stepashin said that this issue does exist. At the same time, he added, it would be untimely to speculate about transferring the disputed Kuril islands to Japan under current political, economic and military circumstances. "As far as I understand, Boris Yeltsin is going to conduct this very difficult visit to Japan precisely in this tenor", Sergey Stepashin said.

Yeltsin Approves Japanese Space Cooperation Plan

OW2708134292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin has approved a draft agreement on cooperation with Japan in space research for peaceful needs. The document is expected to be signed in Tokyo during B. Yeltsin's visit to Japan to be paid between the 13th and 16th of September this year.

The agreement provides for exchanges of scientists and technicians, joint work involving official research centers and exchanges of information concerning the use of outer space for peaceful needs.

To monitor the implementation of the agreement a joint Russian-Japanese commission on cooperation in space research will be formed.

KGB Persecution of Japanese Businessman Noted

PM2708124792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Article by correspondent Valeriy Rudnev: "The USSR KGB Versus Otani Takao. An Everyday Story Against the Background of Big Politics"]

[Text] For the first time ever, the Russian Ministry of Security has published information about foreigners who have fallen foul of the repressive Soviet system. There are some 2,000 of them from 31 countries. Different people, but the same miserable fate has befallen them all in the land of triumphant socialism—the firing squad and obscurity. Why? Only the KGB can answer that question. Even in the more recent past, its ever watchful eye never left foreigners in peace. Only its methods changed. We relate one such "elegant" story below.

Virtually every foreigner traveling to the USSR during the cold war attracted the attention of the Soviet special services. It was believed at the time that our guests were either overt enemies of the Soviet Union or covert intelligence workers. Consequently they were followed, their telephones were tapped, they were provoked, and even recruited.... The KGB expended a great deal of manpower and resources on this. But, to all appearances, its efforts yielded few results. At least, press reports on the exposure and indictment of spies were extremely rare. You were far more likely to read about people being expelled from the USSR and declared persona non grata. What lay behind this diplomatic formula which discredited a person no less than a court sentence? Were they unable to prove ill intent? Did they show pity? Or were they simply reluctant to cause an international incident?

We will attempt to investigate these questions through the example of one everyday episode recently taken from the special services' archives.

So, the USSR KGB versus Otani Takao. The sides were unequally matched, of course. On the one hand, Otani Takao, a subject of the Japanese emperor, talented engineer, and manager of the well-known Mitsubishi company, who found himself working in its Moscow office in the seventies by the will of fate. On the other, the USSR KGB with its thousands of official and unofficial staffers who, over the years of Soviet power, had become skilled in refined mockery—not only of their own citizens but also of citizens from states not subordinate to the KGB.

Otani Takao came to our country to trade. But it was not the benefits of commercial cooperation with Mitsubishi that drew Soviet departments' attention to him: Otani Takao himself was the primary focus of KGB interest. First of all, the Japanese businessman's "guardian" from counterintelligence tried to organize several forced spells of "home leave" for him. This method was practiced by the Soviet special services when recruiting foreigners. On the eve of a "red-letter day," the USSR KGB would inform overseas representatives—via intermediaries in the appropriate ministries and departments—that specific individuals had to leave the country for a "certain" period of time. Apart from the cost, this kind of forced leave caused foreigners enormous personal inconvenience: The telephone calls came unexpectedly, and the list of "victims" was not known in advance. After several such expulsions, an amicable arrangement was suggested to the foreigner concerned—secret cooperation. If he refused, he was sent home again.

Otani steadfastly stood his ground and put up with the situation for a long time. But his wife, an expansive Russian woman called Tamara, finally could stand it no longer. Especially as she was pregnant. The constant persecution of her husband was making her nervous and might have an adverse effect on the baby. Through her

acquaintances she requested protection from a KGB officer. Colonel Aleksey Kirichenko interceded on behalf of the Japanese businessman and his family. He presented Otani Takao's case history to his chief and proposed that they handle the businessman more gently. Thus Otani's case passed to Kirichenko.

It cannot be said that his new KGB "guardian" forwent the interests of the service. On the contrary, Kirichenko was reputed to be an experienced member of counterintelligence who did not work from a position of strength but with circumspection, caution, and intelligence.

In short, the Japanese businessman spent the next "red-letter day" with his pregnant wife in Moscow. After some time, Kirichenko became convinced that Otani was not "spy material": He seemed too gentle and intelligent to our counterintelligence worker—"not a fighter," to use Kirichenko's expression. But he did not venture to sever contact with Otani, instead helping the Japanese to live fairly well in Moscow: He gave him permission to visit his dacha in Saltykovka, went to great pains to ensure that Tamara should have no problems traveling to Japan with her husband, and reserved housing for them in Moscow. Why did he do all this?

"First," Aleksey Kirichenko replied, "as a fellow human being I felt sorry for this international family expecting a child. Second, satisfied that Otani was totally unsuitable for the role of 'spy,' I wanted to keep him and Mitsubishi for Russia. After all, we have great need of Japanese capital and technology. That is why I helped Otani as much as I could. Then I retired and Otani's case was handed over to someone else."

By that time, Otani Takao had returned to Moscow with a promotion—as deputy head of Mitsubishi Shoji's Moscow office. Once again he came under scrutiny from Soviet counterintelligence.

The following is an extract from an official KGB document: "According to the information of the Sixth Directorate, Otani Takao has actively established nonbusiness contacts with the personnel of various Soviet ministries and departments and given them expensive gifts in order to secure contacts advantageous to his firm and obtain confidential commercial information. We are also informed that T. Otani has infringed regulations governing residence and movement in USSR territory."

Thus the legend of the insidious foreigner was created, just to be on the safe side. The businessman's everyday work was portrayed as "nonbusiness contacts," and the term "expensive gifts" referred to everything one normally exchanges during talks in line with business etiquette: glossy calendars, fountain pens, notepads, cosmetics, and bracelets. Visits to his dacha in Saltykovka, outside Moscow, passed as an infringement of regulations governing movement in USSR territory. He was "paid a visit" there once, incidentally: The militia burst in one night, terrifying his wife and child, and took Otani down to the local station, where once again he was given a clear hint that he should cooperate. But it did not work.

So they began to approach the problem from another angle. At that time (1986-1987) the USSR KGB was conducting an investigation against Sushkov, USSR deputy minister of foreign trade, who was accused of accepting large bribes from the leaders of Italian and Japanese firms, abusing his official position, and embezzling hard currency. Otani was interrogated about this for two hours and 20 minutes. But the Japanese businessman said nothing specific about relations between the Mitsubishi leadership and the former deputy foreign trade minister. Although he was insistently questioned about the items Sushkov had received as a gift from Mitsubishi, Otani knew nothing, which clearly caused displeasure among the KGB investigators.

In short, having refused to cooperate with the Soviet special services, Otani was put on the KGB "blacklist." An opportunity to get even soon arose.

In 1987 Japan launched a propaganda campaign against our country in connection with an investigation into deliveries of high-technology goods to the USSR by the firm Toshiba Kikai. Following a Japanese Government decision, seven members of the Soviet trade mission were expelled from Tokyo, most of them officers in the General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate and the KGB First Main Directorate.

Countermeasures were not long in coming. On 11 August 1987 the CPSU Central Committee Politburo adopted Resolution No. 1682, "On Countermeasures in Connection With the Anti-Soviet Campaign in Japan." Naval Attache N. Takeshima (whose sin was to take photographs in the port of Odessa and travel to the Dnieper Hydroelectric Power Plant, where he showed an interest in the dam's specifications, which qualified as intelligence activity) and T. Otani (still imputed with obtaining commercial information and traveling to Saltykovka) were selected as the KGB's victims. A few days later, N. Takeshima and T. Otani were expelled from the USSR....

After five years of appeals to the authorities by Tamara Otani and intervention by Viktor Veremchuk, Russian people's deputy and member of the Human Rights Committee, justice was finally restored. On 16 December 1991 a resolution by the former head of state security, Vadim Bakatin, appeared: "We consider it possible to grant Otani Takao an entry visa to the Soviet Union and have notified the Ministry of External Relations to that effect."

Today, Otani Takao is deputy general director of one of Mitsubishi's departments responsible for projects with Russia. He does not bear us any malice, continues to do business with our country, and often visits the Far East. But he is in no hurry to visit Moscow at present. Although he loves this city, he still feels resentful against Moscow officials. Tamaki, the 14-year-old son of Takao and Tamara, knows nothing about his parents' mental anguish. He loves it in both Moscow and Tokyo.

So ended the USSR KGB's "battle" against Otani Takao.

Opposition Demands Session on Kurils, Abkhazia

LD2708121292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1127 GMT 27 Aug

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The opposition parliamentary bloc "Russian unity" demanded that a special session of the Russian parliament be called.

The bloc issued an address to Russian legislators at a news conference held at the Russian parliament press centre on Thursday. The address says that "there is a threat to the country's territorial integrity". The opposition believes that some Kuril islands will be transferred to Japan during Boris Yeltsin's Japanese visit.

Bloc coordinator Vladimir Isakov expressed concern that the parliament session was moved up from September 15 to September 22 and possibly even to October. Opposition representatives said that the session should also discuss the situation in Abkhazia. According to Gennadiy Sayenko, the coordinator of the "Communists of Russia" group who visited Abkhazia recently, "military aggression was committed against Abkhazia and genocide is conducted against its population". If the Russian Government does not take measures to stop the conflict, "nothing will prevent a large-scale Caucasian war".

Opposition representatives read out a draft address by Russian legislators to the U.N. secretary-general and the international community at the news conference. The draft is headlined "Abkhazia's occupation is an act of terrorism and genocide".

Troop Talks With Moldova Adjourned, Postponed

LD2708045692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Chisinau August 26 MOLDOVA-PRES-TASS—Talks between Russia and Moldova on a timetable for the withdrawal of the Russian Fourteenth Army deployed in the Dniester region and the 300th paratrooper regiment from Chisinau have been adjourned until September.

Reliable sources told MOLDOVA-PRESS that the reason for the adjournment was connected with the August celebrations in the Russian Federation. Russia has celebrated the victory of democratic forces over putschists and Moldova its independence day.

Parachute Regiment Set To Withdraw

OW2608143692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press attache of the Moldovan embassy in Moscow, Andrey Motkovskiy, said in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] that today (August 26) the Defense Ministers of Russia and Moldova, Pavel Grachev and Pavel Creanga, signed an agreement in Moscow stipulating the withdrawal of the Russian 300th parachute regiment from Chisinau within the next two months. The regiment's weapons and property will be distributed meeting the interests of both sides.

The ministers scheduled the second round of negotiations on the status and gradual withdrawal of the Russian 14th army from Moldova for September. It will take place in Chisinau.

14th Army Chief Denies Role in Fate of Kostenko

LD2708122292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1128 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—Fourteenth Army Commander Lieutenant Aleksandr Lebed said the Moldova press report on Wednesday alleging complicity of the Russian military in the fate of notorious battalion commander Yuriy Kostenko, "ruthless butcher of Transdnestria", was "a lie from beginning to end".

"I showed no interest in the fate of this former officer either prior or after reports about his death appeared", Lebed told ITAR- TASS by telephone.

"Kostenko was not held in custody on the Fourteenth Army premises. I have no prison for the purpose, neither do I have any information about Kostenko's whereabouts," the general stressed.

Lebed rejected allegations that he played a role in dispatching the former commander to Moscow aboard a military aircraft and his testimony before a group of investigators.

According to Lebed, the slander was intended to discredit the commandment of the 14th Army.

Ambassador, Senior Diplomats Stranded in Kabul

OW2808105292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0953 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has begun the evacuation of its Embassy and other offices personnel from Kabul, where fighting continues between government troops and opposition supporters. As an IF [INTERFAX] reporter was told at the RF [Russian Federation] Foreign Ministry on Friday, "the evacuation is proceeding with difficulty, but about two thirds of the citizens of Russia and other CIS countries are in Uzbekistan already".

Some 60 people of this number are expected at an air force facility near Moscow today. The remaining evacuees are to arrive later. It is not yet known when exactly the planes are to land since there are problems with fuel at the air base where they've landed for refueling.

A diplomat has neither confirmed nor denied reports that one of the three Russian transports, involved in the evacuation, has been damaged, but has said that "an official statement to this effect will come later". Nonetheless, he admitted that "one third of our people had been unable to fly out of Kabul." In his words, no one has been hurt.

Among those stranded are the Ambassador and senior diplomats. But once they get a chance to leave Afghanistan, they will do so. What's meant is "the temporary full closure of the Embassy of Russia", the foreign ministry official explained.

Plane Hit by Rocket Fire

LD2808052392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0455 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] London, 28 Aug—A Russian military transport plane was incinerated today on the runway of Kabul airport as a result of rocket fire by unknown forces. Four people on board the plane were wounded, REUTER reports from Kabul. Three Russian Air Force military transport planes arrived today at dawn in the Afghan capital to evacuate staff of the Russian Federation Embassy and a number of other foreign diplomatic missions. Already 120 Russian citizens have left Kabul on two military transport planes this morning. However, 50 people including the ambassador still remain in the Afghan capital.

Ministry Aide on Situation

PM2808104192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Interview with Andrey Yushmanov, second secretary at the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs West and South Asia Department, by unidentified AVM-PRESS correspondent especially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, carried under the "Emergency Situation" rubric; place and date not given: "At Full Alert"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The situation in Afghanistan's capital remains tense. Street battles in Kabul between the warring groupings are not abating. In these circumstances many countries' governments have adopted a decision to evacuate personnel from their embassies. The Russian Federation is no exception. So far, however, it has not succeeded—the Afghan side has been unable to give guarantees for the evacuation's safety. Our compatriots' relatives are worried, as we all are, about the situation in Kabul.

We established radio contact with the Afghan capital. [sentence as published]

[Yushmanov] The situation is tense but there are absolutely no grounds for panic. At present there are 165 people in the embassy—diplomats, journalists, representatives of commercial organizations, technical personnel, and members of their families. There are about 20 women among them. There are no children in the building. There is no problem with water or provisions. Although they cannot entertain thoughts of delicacies; you now cannot go down to the bazaar where people usually bought produce, so that they only have standard fare: stew, groats, canned food, fruit juices, and bread.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] How is our compatriots' safety ensured during the firefights and rocket strikes on Kabul?

[Yushmanov] There is a permanent shelter equipped with everything necessary, so that their safety is guaranteed during any bombardment. Moreover, a very precise internal procedure has been established to eliminate chance occurrences.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] How will the evacuation be conducted and when will it begin?

[Yushmanov] First, about the delay. The Afghan side cannot give any guarantees at all of safety, therefore the schedule for departure is unclear. But as far as we are concerned, all measures have been taken—we are on full alert. The airplanes and reception groups are ready, and it is very likely that provision has been made for all eventualities. But it is hardly worth talking about the evacuation procedure, as each day brings new adjustments. Incidentally, I would like to say that we have a permanent and stable link with the embassy, and we talk and exchange service information with it on a daily basis.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] How many of our representatives will remain in Kabul after the embassy's evacuation?

[Yushmanov] It is difficult to answer this question at the moment. It is apparent that, as things stand today, we will have to evacuate everyone. But elsewhere, at the Consulate General in Mazar-e Sharif for example, all is more or less quiet and the staff will remain there. [Yushmanov ends]

...I finished this report in a large bright room one of whose entire walls was hung with an enormous map of Russia, the CIS states, and South and Southwest Asia. Here specialists from the Unified State System of Air Search and Rescue Services are on duty around the clock. The displays flash and there are short and precise reports coming in. Here too they are on full alert. The specialists' actions confirm the diplomat's words: The motherland has its finger on the pulse of events, without taking its eyes off its children.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Appeals to N. Caucasus, S. Russia

PM2708191592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 92 p 1

["Appeal from the President of Russia to the Peoples of the North Caucasus and the Whole Population of Southern Russia"; place and date not given]

[Text] Events in Abkhazia are generating serious alarm and concern among the Russian peoples. As a result of the use of armed force and military hardware there, the number of casualties is growing from day to day, the blood of the civilian population is flowing, and peaceful cities and villages are being destroyed. Thousands of Russians who have found themselves in the conflict zone are under threat. Reports of gross violations of human rights and the undermining of the foundations of law and order and the safety of the population are also inevitably causing alarm.

The confrontation between the Georgian authorities and the Abkhaz leadership is leading to the spread of interethnic conflict and is threatening to undermine the still fragile process of democratic reform begun in Georgia.

The situation in the North Caucasus republics and other areas in southern Russia has also become more complex. Separatists and extremists of various hues, who are appealing for the formation of detachments of volunteers and threatening to invade Georgia, have been stirred to activity on the crest of the wave of the natural alarm of people who do not accept coercion.

Russia is taking a range of resolute measures in the interests of peace and stability in the region.

We are doing all we can to help find a civilized and genuinely democratic solution to the present crisis.

I call on the peoples of the North Caucasus and the entire population of southern Russia to keep their emotions in check and not allow themselves to be drawn into dangerous activity. However they may be inspired, rash actions can threaten the security of Russia itself and the peaceful life and prosperity of every one of us.

Today I urgently appeal to the leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia to immediately put an end to combat actions, start withdrawing forces, end the bloodshed, and set about talks aimed at a political settlement.

Russia immutably recognizes Georgia's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and does not support separatist appeals, whatever their origin. At the same time, we are convinced that the way out of the current confrontation can only be found by comprehensively ensuring human rights and via the harmonious combination of the interests of all the peoples of Georgia.

Yeltsin Transforms Transcaucasus Military Area

LD2708131692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree transforming the Transcaucasian Military District into a group of Russian troops stationed in Transcaucasia with headquarters in Tbilisi, TASS learned from well-informed sources in the Russian Defence Ministry on Thursday [27 August]. Lieutenant-General Fedor Reut was appointed the commander of the group.

This means the Russian Army is now staying abroad. The Baltic Military District had earlier undergone the same transformation and became the North-Western Group of Troops.

The Transcaucasian Military District was created in the former Soviet Union on May 17, 1935 on the territory of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Dagestan and North Ossetia.

The latest post occupied by Fedor Reut, 45, was that of the commander of the 7th Army stationed in Armenia. He supports the withdrawal of the Army by phases until January 1994. He believes there is no necessity for the presence of the troops in Armenia.

Communists Ask Yeltsin To Suspend Ban

LD2708211792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—Representatives of the people's deputies of the Russian Federation have asked the Russian president to suspend the decrees stopping the activities of the CPSU and the Communist Party of the RSFSR pending a decision by the Constitutional Court. The representatives claim that the decrees are unconstitutional. An open letter containing the same request has been sent to Boris Yeltsin by the cochairmen of the public association "In Defense of Communists' Rights."

These representations were made known to journalists today at a news conference held by the groups of deputies "Communists of Russia" and the association "In Defense of Communists' Rights." The writers of the letters consider that for the present to suspend his decrees would be "a goodwill gesture on his part and proof of his wise statesmanship." Russia's communists would be able, meanwhile, to hold a congress, adopt a program and constitution, and submit the necessary registration documents to the Russian Justice Ministry.

As for the CPSU's property on the territory of Russia, the speakers at the news conference said that "a painless and fair solution to that issue can also be found. The communists are willing to make a substantial part of the

former party property into the property of the whole people, retaining for the revived party the bare minimum of the property and money."

Ivan Osadchiy, leader of the group of experts of "Communists of Russia," said the communist people's deputies have submitted to Russia's Supreme Soviet a draft of additions and changes to the law on the Constitutional Court. He feels that because of the absence of appropriate legislative norms, "the Constitutional Court finds itself in an extraordinarily difficult position and is virtually deprived of legal grounds for examining cases and taking decisions on the constitutionality of political parties."

Officials Explain Intent of Federal Security Law

LD2708130292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—"The main purpose of the Law on Federal Security is to ensure the vital interests of Russia, above all, its citizens," Chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security Sergey Stepashin told a briefing at the Russian Ministry of Security here today.

Stepashin said the work of the former State Security Committee was based on a secret KGB statute, drawn up by the CPSU Central Committee in 1959. This document did not guarantee human rights and, in fact, rid the KGB of control by top government bodies. "The Law on Federal Security, which has come into force," he said, "consistently expounds the provisions of the Russian Constitution, the declaration on human rights and also the Law on the Security of the Russian Federation. It legislatively makes our security bodies responsible to the supreme legislative and executive arms of government, to the court and to citizens of Russia. It guarantees them against illegal encroachments upon their personal rights and liberties. A mechanism for controlling and supervising the work of security bodies by the parliament, the president, the court and the prosecutor's office shall be established in keeping with the new law. This will guarantee the observance of the laws in force.

Representative of the Russian Ministry of Security, Major-General Yuriy Demin said the ministry's personnel had received the law with satisfaction. He noted that it envisages very efficient guarantees against possible abuses. At the same time, the document lays down the social rights of security men. Demin said that in addition to this law it is planned to draw up and adopt 18 bylaws and regulations by the beginning of 1993.

Representative of the General Procurator's Office Nikolay Yakovlev noted the importance of the fact that under the new law the Procurator's Office shall exercise control not only over investigations, but also over the operational work of the Russian Ministry of Security. The Procurator's Office has also received the right to look into the appeals of citizens, who believe their rights were violated.

Border Guards Defend Northeast Region

OW2808065692 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 25 Aug 92

[V. Plotskiy video report; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] Part of the border of the Russian Federation stretches from Dezhneva Cape to Sakhalin. It is defended by the troops of the Northeast Border District, our country's eastern most border district. Kamchatka and the waters of the Pacific Ocean which surround it are but a small part of the territory of this enormous region. What is happening today in this district, which has had a new status since 12 June? Here is what our special correspondent has to say: [video cuts to show Mi-8 helicopter carrying border troops over desolate coastal terrain]

[Begin recording] [Plotskiy] Of the 16,000 odd kilometers of borders controlled by the Northeastern District, there are several thousand like this stretch of coastline that are always washed by big and steep ocean swells. Early this morning the Mi-8 combat helicopter took off from an air base in the south of Kamchatka and headed for the Northeast. Generally this is an ordinary patrol flight. On board is a border detachment—the helicopter is being flown by the crew of commander Captain Valeriy Nikitin.

As we head for the jumping off point for the detachment on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, a unique region of the peninsula's southeast region passes under our wings. Judge for yourselves. Concentrated on a relatively small piece of land surrounded on three sides by the waters of an ocean rich in fish, crabs, and other marine animals, are nearly all of Kamchatka's 28 active volcanoes. Many hot and curative thermal springs can be found here as well as virgin forests and hundreds and hundreds of rivers which are the spawning grounds for the famous Kamchatka salmon.

All of this, and the boundless expanses of Russia behind us, is the great responsibility of the young men in green caps. It appears that outwardly nothing has changed in the service of border troops on the Far East frontiers. But since 12 June, when the president signed the decree on Russian Border Troops, they have become essentially new military formations. As a matter of fact, the change of the personnel contingent of the Northeastern Border District to this new status served as a reason to visit the section defended by Kamchatka border guards.

As a matter of fact episodes such as this from life along the border could have been filmed by me today from the very northern post on Wrangel Island to the very southern one on Sarycheva Island. All of this is under the jurisdiction of the district's commander, Lieutenant General Viktor Lavrentyevich Beketov. It is hard to

describe, but today the district has all the most modern means for locating and suppressing any unfriendly activities along the Far Eastern borders, regardless of who undertakes them. At the same time the traditional foot patrols along the ocean shores are also indispensable.

We are now flying over one of the border posts. We have been to this post. Now I have never doubted the fact that Kamchatka border guards are reliably carrying out their service, but I must admit that I have never had an occasion to see this kind of complex of service and residential buildings. It crossed my mind that possibly this complex was a model for distant posts, not just for border guards. There are already five such outposts in Kamchatka. Another two are being built. Besides, this is being done through the efforts of the district itself. At the outpost I spoke with young men from Siberia, and they all assured me that their conditions were excellent.

The air patrol seems to be ending successfully and everything is calm on the border. I recalled the words of a song from the film The Tractor Drivers, which I saw as a child: A rugged region wreathed in silence. [video shows Plotskiy interviewing Lt Gen Beketov in front of a helicopter at an outpost]

[Beketov] Our region is rugged, but it is not wreathed in silence. The economic zone is a particular headache. Big changes have also occurred recently along the borders. Previously we were completely closed and the personnel were taught this, and we prepared ourselves for this. Now for the past three years we have been working at not being closed, at being open, but at the same time ensuring the reliable defense of both the border and the economic zone. We have now established four checkpoints and 10 control posts and they are all busy.

Now you know about the events that are taking place in the economic zone. Of course we are trying with all our might, even in present conditions, to ensure work aimed at preventing the plunder of biological resources in the maritime regions. We are particularly troubled and concerned by the open sectors of the Okhotsk Sea and the Bering Sea, where third country ships are attempting to catch as many fish as possible in an uncontrolled way without a thought to what will happen when they leave. The trouble is that we have no legal instruments that would permit us to actively interfere in this matter and set things in order. There is a convention on maritime rights which says that open sectors are not liable to the controls of coastal services, particularly border troops.

[Plotskiy] I know that quite recently you headed our border guard delegation on a visit to meet your colleagues in Alaska. Has there been any serious, practical progress in joint work?

[Beketov] Yes, I visited Alaska and we established mutual cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard. In May we carried out a joint operation in which our ships and U.S. aircraft took part. We managed to force over 100 ships to leave the open ocean areas adjoining the economic zones. They were heading for or planning to engage in illegal fishing operations in the open sector. I think we helped stop great damage that could have been done to the whole region. The fish simply would not have reached either Kamchatka, Magadan, or Sakhalin.

[Plotskiy] I would like to ask you an unusual question. I know, from unofficial reports, that you are one of few of those who were commanders of border districts for Russia, rather for the CIS, to be once again appointed a commander. Well, first of all I would like to sincerely congratulate you. On behalf of our program I wish you every success. How do you assess this step on the part of the government?

[Beketov] The establishment of the Border Troops of Russia and their transfer to the Ministry of Security naturally resulted in some personnel changes. I was honored by being appointed commander of this district once again. I am grateful to the leadership of the Ministry of Security and the Border Guards of Russia for this. I think that the work that we have already done and the up-to-date nature of our concept of defending the border and the economic zone has been approved in a way through my reappointment. We think that work in this direction will continue.

[Plotskiy] Well, I and my countrymen hope that in the next few years— always as a matter of fact—we will be able to live and work in tranquility behind the broad backs of the Russian border troops of the Northeast Border District.

[Beketov] Yes, that is why we are here.

[Plotskiy] Thank you. [end recording]

Moscow Administration Officials Dismissed

LD2808115892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1142 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 28 TASS—Several officials from the local administration have been removed from their posts on the basis of the results of some 200 inspections of the work of local government bodies, held this year by the Main Control Department at the Moscow mayor's office. These include Yelena Kotova, head of the Property Control Agency at the Central Administrative District of Moscow and one of the organisers of the initial stage of the campaign for turning over Moscow state property to other owners.

This was announced at a briefing by Viktor Mironov, head of the Main Control Department at the mayor's office. He said that criminal proceedings were instituted on three occasions over the past year by the department headed by him, with the participation of law enforcement agencies. There are Moscow officials among the offenders on those cases.

The department, subordinated directly to the head of the city administration, replaced people's control committees. His duties, however, include only the collection, processing and analysis of information about the activities of the apparatus of the Moscow mayor's office and government. Decisions on all the defects it finds in the performance of the institutions, subordinated to the head of the city administration, are taken by the mayor. This is why senior officials of the Main Control Department believe their main task is to find who and for what reason is hampering the implementation of the reform promoted by the mayor.

Speakers at the briefing touched upon the problem of corruption in the Moscow administrative bodies. "Moscow officials are no more corrupted today than in the Brezhnev times. The thing is that corruption has acquired new characteristic features along with the changing of our life and the formation of market relations in our country," Mironov said. According to senior officials of the department who spoke at the briefing, the point at issue is not the complete eradication of corruption as a phenomenon in the life of society. It is just impossible. The most important thing is to "localise it as much as we can," Mironov said.

Yeltsin Returns Bills to Parliament

LD2808090192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0813 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 28 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation has returned a number of bills for revision by the Supreme Soviet. In a letter to the parliament, the head of state points to the need to change some articles that, in his view, run counter to the norms set down in the Russian Constitution.

According to chief legal adviser of parliament Robert Tsivilev, "the president is generally right when he sends back these laws. All of them were passed with no due account taken of the federal treaty". The federal treaty is part of the Russian Constitution.

Tsivilev said that "commissions and committees of the parliament are not accustomed to using this treaty, although a circular on how to do that was made available to deputies".

"Now parliamentarians will have to reexamine at the fifth session of the Supreme Soviet laws "On Education", "On Foundations of City- Building in the Russian Federation", "On Trade Marks, Service Marks and Names of Places of Origin of Commodities"." The two other bills, rejected by the president, are laws "On Legal Protection of Programmes for Computers and Data Bases" and "On Legal Protection of the Layouts of Integrated Circuits".

Yeltsin's Constitutional Amendment Proposals Seen

PM2708140392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[A. Podkopalov report: "Russian Federation Constitution: Will Parliament Commend the President's Amendments?"]

[Text] B. Yeltsin's action in submitting his amendments to the draft of the new Russian Federation Constitution to the Supreme Soviet Constitutional Commission has opened up the fall round of confrontation on the "president-parliament" front. The nature of the proposed amendments leaves no doubt that the confrontation continues unabated. If adopted, they would significantly boost the "presidential" branch of power to the detriment of the parliamentary branch. Despite all their superficial appearance of compromise.

The compromise, strictly speaking, only amounts to the president's agreeing that the ministers of the economy, finance, defense, security, and internal and foreign affairs be confirmed in office by parliament, something the latter has long been seeking. However, the "step forward" is accompanied by "two steps back"—B. Yeltsin proposes to reserve for himself for a "transitional period" the right to appoint all federal officials including, naturally, ministers. Except for the premier. A "transitional" period is a rather obscure concept, and in practice means monopoly control by the president over the Cabinet of Ministers until the expiry of their powers. The same goes, strictly speaking, for the powers of the current parliamentary contingent.

In order to protect himself and the cabinet against parliament's insatiable lawmaking efforts, which have repeatedly blocked the government's program, B. Yeltsin insists on strengthening his right to veto laws adopted by the Supreme Soviet—he proposes that the "presidential veto" should be capable of being overturned only by two-thirds of the votes and not by a simple majority, as had earlier been suggested.

The amendments contain yet another blow aimed at the powers of parliament—the ability to create additional presidential structures of power and administration without prior consultation with the Supreme Soviet. In this context the demand to legalize the status of "president's representatives" at local level, who are under B. Yeltsin's sole control, is entirely logical. In this way the grip of both parliament and local soviets is prised loose from the real levers of power and administration.

The proposal in the amendments package to give the president the right to schedule a referendum at his discretion does not look like a random "blank shot" either. In light of the threats, which we all remember, to appeal "directly to the people" over parliament's head, this looks like poorly concealed blackmail. As for the Congress [of People's Deputies], as far as the president is concerned, its days are numbered: "The Fundamental Law will hardly accept a new congress, since there is no room for a congress in it."

Obviously, B. Yeltsin expects to persuade the Supreme Soviet to agree with his amendments "separately," leaving the congress aside. Otherwise the machinery of "appealing over [parliament's] head" and referendum will be set in motion. B.N. Yeltsin's statement at his latest press conference that "it cannot be ruled out that the Constitution will be adopted by a Constituent Assembly" "fits in" well with this scenario.

In this way parliament is faced with a choice: Either to agree with the amendments and the boosting of the presidential structures, or to join the battle at the risk of being replaced by some sort of "constituent assembly."

Varennikov Protests Yeltsin 'Groundless' Charge

PM2708132992 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 2

[Statement by V. Varennikov on 23 August; place not given: "V. Varennikov's Protest"]

[Text] At a press conference on 21 August Russian President B.N. Yeltsin leveled at me a completely groundless and very grievous charge: That in the course of a telephone conversation with someone, made from Kravchuk's office in Kiev, I had asked: "Why has President Yeltsin not been shot yet?" I cannot accept that such a statement at such a level was made without "help" from certain forces. In effect this is a continuation of the lawlessness begun a year ago, the application of ever increasing psychological pressure on me and other prisoners. The reason for such actions is the absence of any proof of the charges made against me (and other comrades) of betrayal of the motherland in the form of a plot aimed at seizing power.

As for the specific matter of the statement at the press conference, in other words my conversation with Moscow "directly from Kravchuk's office", I can make the following statement.

First, during our hour-long conversation with the Ukrainian leadership, just one single brief telephone conversation with Kryuchkov took place at Kravchuk's. No one, including myself, spoke at any other time on the telephone at all.

Second, in the course of our conversation with Kravchuk, the name of the Russian president was not mentioned at all.

Third, the charge that was leveled by B.N. Yeltsin is certainly not substantiated by the records of the investigation already conducted: I have said nothing similar, or anything different about him, whatsoever.

Fourth, during the conversation in Kravchuk's office, there were several other people besides myself, and none of them made such a deposition at the interrogations.

Fifth, while I was in Kiev from 18 to 20 August 1991, I had only two telephone conversations with the defense minister, but the name of B.N. Yeltsin was not mentioned in these conversations either.

In this connection I could assume that the leadership of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office, not possessing proof of my guilt and ignoring the existing documents in the case, is falsifying various records, thereby provoking Russia's leaders to make irresponsible statements.

Therefore I categorically protest and affirm that, under Russia's current Constitution and the Declaration adopted last year "On Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms in Russia," insults—and even more so, slander—against people's honor and dignity are impermissible. I view such actions as extrajudicial punishment.

[Signed] V. Varennikov
[Dated] 23 August 1992

Presidium Member: National Assembly To Cooperate

OW2708223592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Interview with Konstantin Anuchin, president of the commodity and stock exchange in Nizhniy Novgorod and member of the Presidium of the Duma (Council) of the National Assembly, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Problems & Opinions" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anuchin: The Russian National Assembly is ready for cooperation with the government in promoting an economic upturn in Russia and ending the crisis. What we must be busy with now is not changing governments just one more time but correcting the mistakes the current one has made. This idea is not only my own, it is shared by those Russian businessmen who finance the Russian National Assembly.

I must say that many influential leaders of the Russian National Assembly see the government's program for economic reforms as a basis for a constructive dialogue, although some elements of that program require amendments.

Correspondent: Could you be more precise?

A: The burden of taxes must be eased and interest rates cut. We believe that the VAT [value-added tax] should be canceled, because it has proved unjustified. The profit tax will be enough. Otherwise the government will have no taxpayers to go around pretty soon. To curb inflation there has to be a restriction on the level of profitability of enterprises. As soon as all mutual payments have been settled the Central Bank of Russia should see to it that the commercial banks reduce their interest rates to 20 percent.

Q: What other ideas of the program would you like to be corrected?

A: The social section of the government program is half-baked. So it has to be finalized first thing.

We are against subsidizing essentials, because we believe that support for the low-paid should be furnished in the form of grants. Only in that case it will reach the recipients. Indeed, you cannot subside the whole society. The distribution of privatization vouchers is certainly a humane act. However, we've got to plug all the loopholes foreigners may use to get the vouchers on a wholesale basis.

We believe the government should stop just talking and do something to protect the interests of national capital. It must not let the country become a black market bonanza. Foreign investors must be allowed to acquire fixed assets in Russia at world prices alone.

The government program should contain a list of priority industries, such as high-tech plants and defence factories undergoing conversion. The government should not hesitate to give them benefits and guarantees. Besides, they should have a chance to open joint ventures to make use of the accumulated research potential and prevent it from being sold at next to nothing.

Q: Does your movement have an economic program of its own?

A: The council of the Russian National Assembly has not discussed any economic program yet. It will be finalized within two or three months and adopted by the movement as a basis.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Decree Limits Railroad Privatization

LD2808113392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Friday [28 August] which limits possibilities of privatising railway transport facilities and transforming them into joint-stock companies.

The decree completely corresponds to the world practice according to which the major spheres of economy defined as strategically important for the national interests, such as transport and power engineering, remain under state control, Presidential Spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov commented.

The decree aims to guarantee national security of the country during the transition to a market economy and does not contradict the strategy and tactics of reforms in Russia.

Privatisation of railway facilities and their transformation into joint-stock companies is allowed exclusively by a special permission from the Russian State Property Managing Committee on conditions agreed upon with the Railway Transport Ministry, according to the decree.

The document aims to prevent a split of the Russian railway network which would disintegrate the Russian market. It also creates preconditions for a close cooperation in the CIS economic space.

Progress of Privatization Outlined

PM2808083892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 92 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed article under general heading "Weekly Newspaper REFORMA: Russian Federal Property Fund, No. 7, 1992": "What the First Steps Have Shown"]

[Text] **In the Russian Federation**

It is well known that several methods of privatization are envisaged: the sale of shares in open joint-stock companies, the sale of enterprises at auction, the sale of enterprises in a commercial competition (in which case the composition of the participants may be restricted), the sale of enterprises in a noncommercial investment competition (investment auction), the sale of property (assets) of enterprises that have been or are being eliminated, and the buyout of leased property.

An analysis of the progress of privatization in Russia shows that in major cities the sale of trade, public catering, and consumer service enterprises is going well, on the whole. At the moment such forms as auctions and competitions predominate. At the same time, the selling of shares is gathering speed. The use of share capital is very important in restoring severed economic links. Meanwhile in a number of oblasts the leasing of enterprises followed by their buyout has become widespread.

Facilities offered for auction are valued by special privatization commissions according to methods that take account of the actual value of the facility allowing for its depreciation. But purely market factors also operate at auctions, and an important role is played among these by the facility's location, its possible methods of use, how prestigious the district is, the proximity to main communications and transport routes, and so forth. The experience of the first sales indicates that the sale price can be tens or even hundreds of times the starting price. Millions of rubles are therefore at stake. Thus it can be noted frankly that the first stage of privatization is intended primarily for entrepreneurial structures and to a lesser degree for labor collectives, although they, too, have some chance of buying their enterprises.

The privatization process is now actively in progress in all regions of the country.

According to figures from the Moscow Government, by the end of July 7,553 enterprises had been privatized. This includes 3,853 trade enterprises, 1,440 public catering enterprises, 2,195 consumer service enterprises, 43 transport enterprises, 16 local industry enterprises, and six construction organizations.

The total value of the privatized facilities was 3,065,206,000 rubles [R].

Privatization is also gathering speed in Moscow Oblast. In the city of Klimovsk they offered for auction at a sale of municipal property seven stores that were of interest equally to the capital's and the oblast's entrepreneurs.

In the course of the auction the final price for some facilities was 20-30 times the starting price. The cheapest store was offered for R100,000, but was bought for nearly 3 million. The record at this auction went to a store sold for 19 million, when its initial value was R900,000.

The revenue from the auction totaled R170 million.

The privatization process is also under way in the east of the country. An auction was held in the city of Krasnoyarsk 14 May 1992 to sell shares in the "Volna" joint-stock company (the Krasnoyarsk Asbestos Cement Products Plant). A total of 2,928 shares were offered at the auction, at a starting price of R1,100 per share, making a total of R3,220,800. They were sold for R4,207,800.

On 4 June 1992, the Krasnoyarsk Kray State Committee for the Management of State Property sold the following shares at auction: 1,531 shares in the "Sotskultbyt" joint-stock company (the "Kultbytstroy" Trust of the "Krasnoyarskstroy" Construction Association), for R1.685 million; 125 shares in the "Novoselkovskiy Interfarm Mobile Mechanized Column" joint-stock company, for a total of R125,000.

On 21 May 1992 the Yermakovskiy Food Combine was sold in a competition. The starting price of the facility was R721,000, and it went for R1.1 million.

In June, in Krasnoyarsk, the following were sold in competitions: the Biryulisskiy Creamery, for R1.2 million, where the starting price was R454,700; the maintenance section of the Kazachinskiy Housing and Municipal Services Multisector Production Enterprise for R200,000.

The following enterprises have been privatized by means of their property being leased and subsequently bought out: the Achinsk Meat Combine—sold to the "Myasokombinat Achinskiy" limited company; the Uzhur Meat Combine—to the "Myasokombinat Uzhurskiy" limited company; and the Krasnoyarsk Timber Transportation Combine—to the "Krasnoyarskiy Lesoperevalochnyy Kombinat" closed joint-stock company.

The following were sold by competition on 17 June: the "Lyuks" hairdresser's in Divnogorsk, for R250,000, with an initial price of R8,700; the "Berezka" workshop in Divnogorsk was sold for R3 million, with an initial price of R81,700.

The first open share auctions for the sale of municipal property in Volgograd brought in, instead of the anticipated R50 million, more than R140 million. This sum is equal to the profit previously expected from the year's privatization program.

However, the results were not so positive everywhere. Inflation will gradually "erode" the none too substantial savings of the main bulk of the population, who barely have the resources for minimal consumer spending.

In Moscow

On the territory of Moscow Oblast there are now 18,500 organizations with the status of juridical persons, including industrial enterprises. In the oblast as a whole, more than 250 items of property had been privatized by 1 August 1992. The privatization process is gathering speed: In June-July the total sum obtained from privatization was approximately equal to that for the entire period from the beginning of the year, and it is now approaching R1 billion.

Lease enterprises account for approximately one-fifth of the total number of industrial enterprises on the oblast's territory. Lease enterprises where the lease contract made provision for the right to buy out the property are among the most active participants in the privatization process—suffice it to say that out of 90 documentation packages received by the Moscow Oblast Property Fund from the Committee for Management of Property, enterprises in this category accounted for 80. This is a relatively "simple" method of privatization, because lease enterprises are the structures best prepared for privatization. In Moscow Oblast there is a fairly large number of these enterprises, because following the promulgation of legislation on leasing, enterprises switched quite energetically to this form of ownership.

As of 1 August 1992 the Moscow Oblast Property Fund had concluded 73 sales contracts with lease enterprises, for a total sum of more than R400 million. Here it should be borne in mind that in the course of privatization of enterprises that have sociocultural and consumer facilities on their books, the said facilities should be taken under the control (onto the books) of rayon and city soviets of people's deputies. This provision is enshrined in a 15 July 1992 decision of the Moscow Oblast Little Soviet, with a view to preventing situations where organizations that have carried out the privatization of their enterprises would automatically become the owners of entire streets, neighborhoods, and even cities. It is easy to surmise what such a situation could mean for residents finding themselves totally dependent on the new owners. The importance and timeliness of the decision adopted is confirmed by the fact that, for instance, of the aforesaid 73 lease enterprises 31 have sociocultural and consumer facilities on their books.

Leasing with the right of buyout is just one of six methods of privatization envisaged by the state program. As for other methods of privatization envisaged by the state program, here the following figures can be cited: 10 enterprises will be privatized through the sale of shares (out of the 90 enterprises for which the Moscow Oblast Property Fund has received privatization documents). The Moscow Oblast Property Fund will hold the first share auction in mid-September.

The progress of privatization is directly associated with the work of rayon branches of the Property Fund, which implement the privatization process locally. Of Moscow

Oblast's 39 rayons and 23 cities under oblast jurisdiction, property funds have been set up in 40. Of these, "real" privatization is in progress in 23, the most active being Sergiyevo-Posadskiy, Ramenskiy, and Shelkovskiy Rayons. Local property funds are working actively on the privatization of municipal property. Five municipal enterprises have been prepared for the sale of shares, with a total incorporation capital of R16 million. Twenty-one contracts have been concluded for the buyout of municipal enterprises by labor collectives, for a total of R13 million. Work is in progress on 17 contracts for leasing with the right of buyout, for a total of R44 million.

As for the holding of competitions and auctions, as of 1 August, in the rayons and cities of Moscow Oblast, local property funds had held competitions in only 12 rayons and cities.

The figures cited indicate that privatization is proceeding most successfully where the property funds were created beforehand and have accumulated some experience, enabling them to make the most effective use of various methods of privatization depending on the specific situation.

Shumeyko Urges Reform, Discusses Protectionism

OW2608185292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 26 Aug 92

["Roundtable" interview with Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko by special correspondent Vitaliy Dzhibuty on 26 August; place not given; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [26 August], the Russian Government held a "round table", during which Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko spoke to special IF [INTERFAX] correspondent Vitaliy Dzhibuty.

Corr: What direction do you imagine economic reform will take around the end of the current year and the beginning of 1993, and how do you view the granting of extra credit to enterprises?

Vladimir Shumeyko [VS]: I would say, briefly, that comprehensive changes are needed throughout the whole economy. Radical reforms were immediately offered to industry which are forcing all branches of the domestic economy to change, simultaneously, to self-regulation. This is a difficult process and we cannot wait until the market itself regulates all processes.

Experts are currently working out an aid programme for the most essential areas of production. Their work will be completed between September 15th and 20th and submitted to the cabinet. This document will clarify what enterprises and industries the government will protect. The rest, whether they like it or not, will be subjected to the radical changes which I have previously mentioned and could be threatened by bankruptcy.

The government has already issued a decree on extra credit and 150 bn. [billion] rubles have already been committed to this project. A similar sum has been set aside by the Central Bank and the Finance Ministry has been instructed to distribute this money throughout the nation and the regions should be left with no doubt as to which industries it is most necessary to assist.

Corr: What assistance does the government require to boost economic reforms and where will it come from? On which political force does the government rely most heavily?

VS: The main assistance will come from every citizen in the land. Supporting the government means that every Russian must now think about how he will earn a living and how best to do this honestly.

After this comes assistance from political parties and movements which offer the cabinet support in the creation of a powerful pro-government coalition able to create, in turn, a constructive atmosphere throughout the nation. Support from the press is also necessary. The press is able to create a calm, business-like atmosphere among the people. Hysteria is of no assistance whatsoever.

As for your question relating to political forces, I would say that "DemRossiya," with its constructive initiative, is most influential to the government.

Corr: How do you view the possibility of halting the decline in productivity in Russia? What do you think about the solutions proposed to the government by the various political groups?

VS: Many solutions have been put forward, but no one has yet produced an alternative to the government measures which will take effect when the change to the market economy is complete. I view the programme of priority which I have already outlined as being capable of halting the decline in productivity. The most important thing at the moment is to preserve the strategical types of industry and offer special support to those which produce consumer goods and fill the market. It is important to clarify the fact that protectionalism is being offered not to sectors as such, but to the whole productivity chain and a range of enterprises.

Corr: What is your opinion of the role played by foreign investment in the Russian economy? What is beneficial to this process and what hinders it? To what extent is Russia prepared?

VS: Only 1bn. dollars have been invested in the Russian economy from abroad in recent years. This is a very small sum for Russia. In this connection a purely political question comes to mind: does the West need a strong Russia? In my opinion it does not. And will not be able to wait for foreign investors to finally inject their capital into our coontry.

This is why our main economic hopes on the West are founded on small and medium sized private businesses. We are able only to guarantee them more profitability than they would receive in the West in order to attract this business. I consider that we have the legal base for attracting such investment. Only the uncertainty of partners as to whether a market economy is actually being established in Russia remains to be conquered. The most pressing needs here are for a market infrastructure and a more advanced banking system.

More on Government Approval of Structural Policy

LD2708153192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Podyapolsky and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The Russian Government on Thursday [27 August] discussed and approved on the whole the concept of its structural policy for the year 1993. The concept drafted by the Russian Ministry of the Economy aims at defining the scale, forms, and specific methods of government support for one or another sector of the economy.

According to the concept, the government will give priority in 1993 to the fuel and energy complex, food production, transport and conversion. As for the fuel and energy complex, priority will be given to the maintenance of its vital support system, the boosting of oil extraction and the securing of necessary exports. In the area of food production, government targets the prevention of further decline in consumption. The transportation system will focus on developing sea ports and replenishing the fleet of means of transportation that are now in short supply. In the field of conversion, the government intends to switch from curbing military production to a large-scale production of consumer goods.

Andrey Nechayev, the minister of the economy, who presented the concept, said that the complexity of implementing the structural policy lies in the fact that it will be implemented against the background of the decline of production, at a time when the investment activity lowered to a critical point. He believes the task for 1993 is at least to preserve the 1992 volume of investments.

During the debate on the structural policy, members of the cabinet made critical remarks regarding some sections, related as a rule to the branches they head.

Summing up the debate, acting Premier Yegor Gaydar said that the concept is acceptable for intensive work to create a system of priorities requiring state support. The ministries were assigned the task of preparing within a week the list of programmes for branches, indicating a possible mechanism for their support. Gaydar said chiefs of ministries should not count on a sharp increase of investments from the budget, but should try to use other forms of investment.

Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk then announced the procedure of organising the work to draw up the budget for 1993. In his opinion, the complexities of drawing up the budget will be linked, specifically, with the fact that the situation with prices has not yet been formulated: A price increase on energy carriers is expected. In addition, the problem of separating the federal budget from the budget of territories has not yet been resolved.

The cabinet instructed the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy to submit till October 20 for the government's consideration a draft budgetary message of the Russian president to the Parliament.

Central Bank To Take Measures To Support Ruble

LD2708163292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug (BUSINESS-TASS)—The dollar exchange rate has grown sharply, and this has created an emergency at the Russian currency exchange. At the latest trading of the Moscow interbank currency exchange (MICE) today, the dollar rate rose sharply from 168.1 rubles [R] to a record level of R205.0. According to preliminary data, as an urgent step, the Russian Central Bank plans to temporarily abandon the adopted practice of establishing an official parity of currencies on the basis of the exchange rate.

According to the MICE information service, 42 banks took part in the trading. Despite a sharp increase in the rate of exchange, the trading volume rose to $42.55 million, exceeding the previous index by 53.72 percent. Such a major "crash" happened because of a very high initial demand for currency ($70.78 million), which by far exceeded the initial supply ($20.78 million). The latter remained roughly at the previous level.

According to preliminary data obtained from reliable sources by a BUSINESS-TASS correspondent, the Russian Central Bank regards the situation as a case of force majeure, and intends to set an official ruble rate different from the market value that has sprung up suddenly on the money exchange.

Observers note that this will be the Russian Central Bank's first departure from the policy of maintaining a single ruble rate, and sets a precedent. At the same time, experts have recently been persistently predicting that the rise in inflation will destabilize the ruble and that the dollar rate will rise to R250-300 by the end of the year, but no one expected such a rapid collapse. For instance, experts from the fund for the support of privatization and development of the financial market forecast that the dollar would rise to just R170 in today's dealings.

The next dealing day has been set for 1 September.

100 Percent Inflation, Ruble Fall Predicted

LD2708164492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1433 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—According to a forecast from the economics and finance ministries, inflation will rise to 100 percent next year, or 7-8 percent per month. The drop in the nominal ruble rate will continue. Movements in the exchange rate will follow the curve of inflation and the decline in the value of the ruble. If the inflation rate is 7-8 percent per month, the ruble rate will fall roughly in line. Aleksey Ulyukayev, head of the group of advisers to the chairman of the Russian Government, said this at a briefing on the outcome of the sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers.

When implementing the structural reorganization of the economy, the government plans to bring into play such instruments as an increase in enterprises' financial resources by way of indexing fixed capital, using budget resources, providing preferential credits, and export and import concessions, he said. The ministries of finance and the economy and the center for economic reforms are currently working to set up a Russian bank for reconstruction and development. It is intended to be the most powerful mechanism accumulating funds and will channel them to implementing projects according to their effectiveness and not on the whim of an official.

According to the leader of the group of advisers, the number of enterprises that may go bankrupt "will not be very great—a fraction of the total number of enterprises." Unemployment will present a problem from this fall. In his opinion, the number of registered unemployed will be no more than 1.5 million by the end of the year, but in 1993 will be approximately 5 million.

Yeltsin Adviser on Reform's Regional Aspects

PM2708142192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Aug 92 pp 1-2

[Article by Aleksandr Granberg, adviser to the Russian president on CIS economic and social issues: "The Fate of Reform Is Decided in the Regions; How To Avoid the Disintegration of the Russian Economy"]

[Text] When the "philosophy" of the new program to develop economic reform was taking shape, its creators agreed that unified approaches and recommendations equally applicable to all regions would not be acceptable for Russia. If only because regions with average conditions simply do not exist in Russia. Analysis of our previous attempts to reform the all-Union and Russian economy convincingly demonstrates that they failed largely because we ignored regional specifics and the real conflicts between all-Russian and regional economic interests.

Consequently, the new program featured a section entitled "The Regional Aspect of Reform." But it was "unlucky" right from the start: A number of newspapers not only failed even to summarize it—they kept quiet about its existence altogether. One can only guess what kind of "censor" was at work here. However, the fact that the program is doomed to fail without this section has been remarked on by critical economists, from Shatalin's Reform Foundation in particular. They have very severely criticized the concept of the program for its lack of regional policy. As you can see, their criticism should be directed elsewhere...

I would describe the problem of correlating the features of implementation of the reform in different regions and preservation of the unity of the Russian economy as dramatic. It is no accident that during discussion of the program at a government session President B. Yeltsin voiced fears that, by opening the way to independence for republics, krays, and oblasts, we are crossing the invisible line beyond which the disintegration of Russia begins—first economic, then political.

It is certainly a difficult question. The danger of the destructive disintegration of the Russian economy remains quite real. But are regionalization and integration two incompatible premises forcing us to choose between them? Categorically not! They are two sides of economic federalism and the correct combination of them will allow it to develop harmoniously, particularly a unique country like Russia.

What do we mean by the term "regionalization"? It means taking account of different regions' specific features when implementing all-Russian policy in the financial, investment, social, and foreign economic spheres. It means giving them the right to choose how to solve problems—particularly those relating to small businesses, the social sphere, environmental protection, and the use of natural resources—and to boost the economic activity of enterprises in all forms of ownership. Finally, it means recognizing the need for special programs to implement reform in regions with particularly different conditions.

Regionalization is not separatism. It is the reverse: a necessary condition of preventing separatism. I must admit, I was surprised to hear that Ye. Gaydar allegedly described regionalization as a very serious political threat in an address to ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI journalists. At the aforementioned government session he convincingly defended the essence of regionalization of all-Russian reform.

Naturally, we must aim for the kind of regional independence that will ensure mutually advantageous collaboration between all economic subjects and the appropriate management bodies.

Special measures are needed to develop the all-Russian division of labor and a single market space and to overcome the collapse of interregional economic ties, now into its third year.

At present we are experiencing a shortage (one more on top of all the rest) of regionalization, of a differentiated approach to economic and social policy, of integration, and of interregional economic collaboration.

It has turned out that some regions are more prepared than others for the upheavals that have accompanied life in the latter years of "perestroyka." Market relations are being established unevenly: Some regions are adapting to them more easily, while others are finding themselves in a catastrophic situation. Regions of the north, for example, or those where the defense industry is concentrated.

It goes without saying that the general economic crisis is intensifying the centrifugal tendencies fed by political separatism. Long-standing economic ties are being severed. Barriers are appearing in trade, and trade is being squeezed out by barter. The ruble has essentially ceased to be the sole currency even in Russia and has begun to be replaced by substitutes. Greatly increased transport tariffs have made a substantial proportion of interregional commodity exchange unprofitable. It requires a great deal of imagination to speak of a "single national economic complex." The unified finance and taxation system is in danger of collapse. We are witnessing the erosion of the legal and economic space.

How does the government program respond to the challenge of reality? Its main formula is that preserving unity is inconceivable without preserving diversity.

There are various methods of maintaining unity: political, legal, and others. I am primarily concerned with economic methods.

The main problem is to ensure that the regions have a tangible economic interest in the existence of a strong state power and in the creation of conditions that will allow all regions of the country to sustain mutually advantageous collaboration among themselves. If there is no interest, it is hard to maintain relations even between individuals. It is even harder to maintain them between entire oblasts and republics; exhortation and diplomatic maneuvers are not enough.

The most recent example is the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The compressed spring of economic interest lay at the root of the Baltic republics' efforts to gain independence. They were convinced that it was impossible for everyone to live normally in the all-Union economic system and that those who could save themselves should do so. They hoped to independently extricate themselves from a hopeless economic situation. I certainly do not believe that they were right in every respect. In many respects their hopes of independent prosperity were illusory. But in this case the main point is that separatism triumphs when all hope of economic cooperation is lost.

Is there any possibility of us creating an attractive all-Russian future for the republics and territories? The answer is unequivocal: Yes, there is. First, by means of a federal monetary system. A strong Russian ruble will cement economic ties more strongly than any institutions of power. It will squeeze out the temporary substitutes and make barter unnecessary. It goes without saying that money emission must be in the hands of federal bodies.

Second, by means of a common infrastructure: transport, communications, and energy systems. By maintaining it in an efficient condition, the state will economically draw all the regions into a single whole. Centralized investments must primarily be channeled in this direction. Third, by means of a federal budget. A multichannel taxation system must be preserved, with federal taxes working alongside republic, local, and municipal taxes. Not everyone agrees with this point of view. There are some who support the single-channel option. A recent example is the maneuver by the leaders of three republics against the Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System for 1992."

I was greatly impressed by the arguments I heard in the FRG. Germans find it strange to question the need for federal taxes. One of my German colleagues insisted that the financial aspect is not the only crux of the matter. Civil rights are also affected. As I live in a particular community, I am obliged to pay it certain taxes. As it is Brandenburg Land, I pay taxes into the Brandenburg budget. But I can only feel myself to be a citizen of the FRG when I pay my federal tax. And I cannot transfer this right to either the community or the land. It seems that a multichannel taxation system is a necessary attribute—not only of a federal state, but also of a democratic civil society.

It is clear, however, that the main interest does not lie in the payment of a federal tax but in the use of the resulting federal financial resources. The program proposes to finance state regional programs, create a federal regional fund, and establish a system of financial support for problem regions and incentives for those capable of leaping ahead in their economic development.

Fourth, by means of general state regulation of foreign economic activity. We must look at this area through the eyes of our partners. There will not be many international businessmen and reputable investors who will risk investing major capital without the support of federal bodies (government guarantees, loans, preferential terms, and so forth). In my opinion, the liberalization of foreign economic activity must be implemented under the umbrella of the state.

This is not a complete list of integrating principles of all-Russian reform. The program describes in some detail the tasks of forming a single market space: a market in goods and services, capital, and manpower.

On an organizational level, I would single out the idea of territorial associations. However, as soon as economists raise the question of the need to combine resource, production, scientific, and technical potentials within the framework of large territories—the Urals, Siberia,

the Far East, and so forth—quite different forces immediately begin to hype the question of forming separate Urals, Siberian, and Far Eastern republics with their own presidents, speakers, and prime ministers and with scenarios for breaking away from Russia if "certain" circumstances should coincide.

Is it any wonder that the center is on its guard? I nevertheless believe that the healthy idea of interregional economic integration will forge a path for itself. We must try not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Disintegration processes in the former USSR must be a good lesson and have a sobering effect on politicians of all persuasions. It is sufficient to test our Russia's strength from within.

Ministry Aide Describes Incomes Policy Plans

PM2708144792 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 4

[Article by Aleksey Novikov, deputy chief of the Russian Ministry of Labor Living Standards Administration: "How to Protect the People from Poverty"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Ministry of Labor is working on the social aspects of the government's "Program to Deepen Economic Reforms." Aleksey Novikov, deputy chief of the Living Standards Administration, discusses this.

Not only pensioners, invalids, and families with children, but most working people in budget-funded organizations are finding the transition to the market tough. A number of adopted measures (repeated increases in the minimum wage, bigger pensions, grants, stipends, one-shot compensation payments for badly off citizens) are alleviating the situation, but they are only emergency measures. What is needed is a preventive system to protect the economic interests of all strata of society.

Russian Ministry of Labor specialists reckon that the main task in the incomes policy sphere is their state regulation. Income growth cannot be allowed to outstrip, or stimulate the growth of, prices. At every stage it is necessary to observe the optimal correlation between changes in incomes and prices. They must be, on the one hand, economically valid, and, on the other hand, socially acceptable. Tax regulation of personal incomes can prevent excessive and unfair differentiation between the incomes of working people in different sectors, regions, and social groups.

In present conditions, with production declining and pay continuing to grow rapidly, we propose two possible ways of preventing this process. The first envisages regulating all funds used for pay through the tax mechanism and fixing a norm for the amount. The second option is to have no restriction on funds for pay, but to have stiffer progressive taxation of a person's pay. Both options have advantages and disadvantages, so it is necessary to carefully examine the results of the experiment.

Every day the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor and other government organs receive communications from labor collectives, public organizations, and individuals demanding the immediate introduction of a law on indexation. But world practice shows that, given an annual rate of inflation of over 40 percent, an automatic indexation mechanism is unacceptable since it causes a steeper inflation spiral. Therefore we asked the Supreme Soviet to suspend the recently adopted "Law on the Early Introduction of the Law on Pension Compensation" and continue to use the more expedient and flexible means of maintaining living standards—periodic review of the size of pensions, stipends, and pay.

Separate decisions on individual sectors and categories of working people have disrupted pay ratios. The single rate system worked out by the ministry is intended to eliminate any imbalance and is based on differing degrees of labor complexity and working people's different skill levels. We are expecting the single rate system to be examined by the government in August and to be approved. Enterprises and organizations in the economically accountable sector of the economy will be able to use wage and salary rates, fixed on the basis of single rate system ratios, as guides to differentiated pay for skilled professionals. The system will be obligatory for budget-funded organizations.

The government has also received our proposals on increasing the pay of working people in budget-funded institutions, which at the moment is 2.2 times lower than pay in economically accountable enterprises. In view of the nature of the work and the conditions, the level of pay should be no less than 70-75 percent of the level of pay in industry. But we are specifying a differentiated approach to different sectors of the budget sphere, on the basis that many of them can obtain funds for pay from economically accountable activities.

In devising an incomes policy we reached the conclusion that the time had come to abandon the principle of equal entitlement to state support for every child and to gradually switch to differentiated child benefits depending on age groups and the parents' financial position. We are proposing the creation of a single federal system of state allowances for families with children. Some allowances will come out of social security funds, some will come out of local budgets, and others will come out of the federal budget. But all the allowances will be subject to precise social normatives.

We are insisting that social assistance for people with limited opportunities for labor activity be provided on a differentiated basis and that conditions be created, within the bounds of the law, for the workforce to increase its material prosperity (part-time employment, combining jobs, working at home, developing small and family businesses). But, most important, we must all realize that living standards and our personal well-being depend not only on higher pay and bigger pensions, but on increased production of foodstuffs and commodities. That is our surest way of guarding against poverty and shortages.

Wages Arrears Calculated at R47.6 Billion

PM2608141192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Aug 92 First Edition p 3

["State Committee for Statistics Report" by Viktor Karnaukhov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics Financial Statistics Administration: "Thanks for the Work!"]

[Text] According to information from the State Committee for Statistics, payments of wages and other financial awards in industry, agriculture, and the construction industry were 47.6 billion rubles [R] in arrears as of 1 August.

One in three industrial enterprises and organizations have recorded cases of arrears, while in the construction industry and agriculture the figure is one in two.

In July we managed to halt the increase in arrears; the total fell by 27 percent. Nevertheless, as of 1 August industrial workers have been underpaid by a total of R30.5 billion, agricultural workers by R8.9 billion, and construction industry workers by R8.2 billion (excluding funds transferred to workers' bank accounts).

The drop in arrears is mainly due to an increase in money emission, the release into circulation of higher-denomination bank notes, and the use of noncash instruments for paying workers (checks and other substitutes).

The most serious situation prevails at enterprises and organizations in Tyumen Oblast. Here the total amount of money unpaid within the prescribed periods is estimated to be R3.8 billion. The situation is difficult in Sverdlovsk Oblast, where arrears have reached R2.8 billion, Krasnoyarsk Kray (R2 billion), the Republic of Bashkortostan (R1.4 billion), Perm Oblast (R1.3 billion), and Altay Kray (R1.3 billion).

Some 60 percent of the total arrears is due to a lack of bank notes in banks. Banks are mainly to blame for disrupting payment schedules in Vologda, Kaluga, Orel, Volgograd, and Samara Oblasts.

Government Decree Abolishes Personal Pensions

PM2708145592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Tatyana Khudyakova report: "Russian Government Abrogates USSR Government Resolutions on Personal Pensions"]

[Excerpt] A resolution signed by Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Government, deems invalid the RSFSR Government's decisions and abrogates the operation on Russian territory of the USSR Government's decisions on questions pertaining to the provision of concessions and benefits for former personal pensioners.

Since 1935 there have been 16 resolutions giving the right not only to personal pensions of Union, republic, and local status, but also considerable concessions on rates for housing and municipal services, purchase of vouchers for treatment at sanatoriums and resorts, travel on all modes of transport, purchase of scarce commodities, and registration at special food stores.

Active participants in the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Civil War, and the struggle to establish Soviet power, members of societies of old bolsheviks, CPSU veterans, writers, composers, fine arts personnel, and members of their families enjoyed increased pensions and privileges. Concern was also shown for pensioners who were members of fraternal communist and workers' parties. So were leading party, soviet, and diplomatic personnel who retired on pension for health or age reasons. A separate resolution fixed personal pensions for outstanding sportsmen.

As of 20 August this year they are all transferred to the category of ordinary pensioners.

"This document cannot be considered unexpected, much less discriminatory, since the Russian Law on Pension Provision, which has been in effect for 18 months now, contains no article on personal pensions," Yuriy Shikharev, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Subcommission for Pension Provision, said. "Since the law makes no provision for this, the prescribed personal pensions were not renewed. Inflationary processes that caused a drastic deterioration in levels of wages, pensions, subsidies, and so on have forced personal pensioners to switch to labor pensions fixed on the same footing as everyone else. That is, pensions that take into consideration length of service, age, and earnings."

"So, the benefits and privileges that personal pensioners enjoyed have been abolished now, too?"

"Of course. Former personal pensioners will enjoy the pension supplements and concessions for transport, medicine, and other benefits that local soviets are able to grant all their pensioners. Then the enterprises for which these pensioners worked may also provide their veterans with various kinds of material aid."

There is every indication that there should be no talk of hundreds of thousands of "casualties" from democracy. Former party personnel have hardly been left without a "roof over their heads," but since their whole life was spent under communism it would be right for them in their declining years to share with their own people all the difficulties that have befallen the latter through their fault. [passage omitted]

Unions: Government Must Improve Legal Protection

OW2608175392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Independent Trade Unions' Federation believes that the Russian Supreme Soviet should

strengthen legal protection of citizens' private property, honor and dignity, according to a statement by its executive committee. This statement was issued in the wake of growth of criminality in the country and is addressed to the President, the Supreme Soviet and the government of Russia.

The statement says that the Russian Government should speed up solving militiamen's social problems and improve their working conditions. The Independent Trade Unions' Federation calls to draw the workers into guarding public order and set up armed groups of the workers' militia at the industries.

Adviser Says Oil Prices Should Be Increased

OW2708205192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government should raise prices on oil and oil products in November, Presidential Advisor Pavel Bunich told INTERFAX. He believes that if this is not done enormous state subsidies will be made necessary to cover the margin between buying and selling prices.

He also said the introduction of an oil tax is being planned for this year. The oil tax will allow the reduction of the value-added tax and certain other taxes which are delaying the business activities of manufacturers.

Shumeyko on Measures To Combat Corruption in Oil

OW2708212292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1753 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Exclusive interview with First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko by Yevgeniy Terekhov; place and date not given; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" bulletin feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commission set to exercise control over finance-and-legal issues and combat corruption, answerable to the chairman of the RF [Russian Federation] Government, has initiated inquiries into the operation of enterprises involved in oil industry.

"We have very serious reasons to do this," said RF First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko in an exclusive interview to INTERFAX's Yevgeniy Terekhov, "since in the first six months of 1992, 67% of crude oil exported by Russia was sold abroad free of taxation". In the meantime, he had to admit that in some cases such transactions were authorized on the government level.

"During the preparation of the Federative Agreement, and now, some of the regional officials of the Russian Federation requested permission to export their oil free of taxation in order that the monies raised thereby could be spent for strengthening local economics capabilities," Mr Shumeyko explained. He also reminded that the price of a ton of oil inside the country is only $20 against $198 which is its price at the world market. "This difference provides ground for all kings of subterfuges," he observed.

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs which the vice president was referring to, various enterprises are presently involved in reselling licenses for the oil export, their "tariffs" reaching $2 for the right to export one ton of crude oil. "It looks like a dollar-powered bulldozer," he claimed.

All this causes the government to make a close study of the problems surrounding export of oil by various economic structures. We are going to check every link of the chain involved in oil export—not only joint ventures, the prime minister emphasized.

Mr Shumeyko maintains that it would be necessary to cancel all privileges for oil export so long as they "affect the operation of the entire export mechanism".

Agricultural Issues

Grain Farmers To Get Financial Incentives

LD2708220392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Until the end of August, a kind of bonus will be in operation for farmers [area covered not specified]: a two-ruble premium from the oblast budget for each kilogram of grain sold as part of the state grain order. In addition, there is a 20 percent increase in the price on the sale of all compulsory grain supplies.

However, even these payments have failed to arouse to particular enthusiasm among farmers. So far, around 50,000 tonnes of grain has been sold to the state, 54 percent of the compulsory supplies. That is little more than 10 percent of the total harvest.

Goskomstat's Latest Harvest Statistics Reported

PM2808105992 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 28 Aug 92 p 1

[Article by Mikhail Silvanovich: "Grain, Rain, and Politics"]

[Text] The beginning of this week in Moscow—the cradle of all economic, political, and other innovations—was cold, rainy, and autumnal. The endless expanses of Russia presented a different picture: grimmer, more uneasy. It seems that the slow wheels of the harvest and of feed procurements are about to go into a spin anyway. And there is still so much to bring in yet!

According to Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics data, 31.2 million hectares of grain have been cut on kolkhozes and sovkhozes and 29.2 million hectares have been threshed—this is 55 and 51 percent of the sown area, respectively.

The harvest is a greater burden than last year in every regard. To start with, the average amount threshed is 22.1 quintals per hectare compared with 17.9 by the same date last year. In many eastern regions, which the harvest has now reached, ear development is nearly two weeks behind the optimum stage, there is normal density of stand, and much grain has lodged. The only possible salvation is the combine harvester operators' expertise, and thank goodness, there is no problem there.

Some 64.4 million tonnes of grain have been threshed. A heavy load in itself, but the emotional atmosphere surrounding it is even heavier. The increase in the purchase price to 12,000 rubles [R] per tonne on average, compared with the former R10,000, and R8,000 before that, opened the grain sales sluices a fraction. Prior to the increase in prices, 1.7-2.5 million tonnes of grain were arriving at elevators every week, now the the stream has swelled somewhat to 3.2 million tonnes.

A total of 11.6 million tonnes has been bought toward compulsory supplies. Lipetsk Oblast, which has sold 475,000 tonnes of grain, and Smolensk Oblast, which has sold 125,000 tonnes, have now joined Orel and Bryansk Oblasts, which fulfilled the state order earlier.

As was reported before, a federal grain fund has been formed by decree of the Russian Federation president. Alas, every innovation from Moscow is perceived in the provinces as an attempt to tip the scales (or strain their patience?). The only reaction from the farmers, it seems, was... two questions: How does the "federal fund" differ from the old "state resources" and, second, a more impatient question: Is this fund on top of or including that?

Expecting an answer, the chairmen of kolkhozes and directors of sovkhozes and other commodity producers are listening to the tense silence from their telephones, feeling in every muscle the weight of the grain, which has the value of gold.

Military Issues

Chernavin Declines Comment on Retirement

PM2708114392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[L. Krutakov report: "Chernavin To Retire?"]

[Excerpts] Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernavin, commander in chief of the CIS Navy, is to retire. A news item from the realm of the easily predictable. Following the events of last August, the old guard of generals has gradually dwindled away to nothing almost unnoticed. [passage omitted]

At the moment it is hard to judge the reasons for his retirement. Many are inclined to connect this event with the end of the investigation into the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] affair. It is known only that Chernavin has twice offered his resignation—last year and this year. Most likely his desire to retire on pension is caused by the failure of the admiral's personal ideals, seeing that he has devoted all his life to struggling for the defense capability of the USSR which no longer exists today. Chernavin himself declined to comment on his retirement for us, saying that he "does not want to talk publicly about a personal matter."

But the most interesting point was revealed later. I was told at the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense that "no retirement exists." It is simply that Feliks Nikolayevich Gromov, Chernavin's first deputy, has been appointed to the new position of commander in chief of the Russian Navy. And Chernavin himself remains in his old post—commander in chief of the USSR (CIS) Navy. Chernavin's future, cast in the role of a "wedding general" [military man hired to lend solemnity to wedding ceremony], is unclear. The answer in the Ministry of Defense was brief: "Probably he will be pensioned off." At the momement the admiral sits in his office and awaits the order for his dismissal.

International Affairs

Further on Denial of UN Sanction Violations

LD2708124692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Ivan Sayko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 27 TASS—The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry refuted allegations by some mass media that Ukrainian ships deliver cargoes to Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by the Danube River, violating thereby U.N. Security Council's sanctions.

The statement notes that Ukrainian Government bodies, enterprises and organisations take measures to monitor the implementation of requirements contained in the Security Council resolution.

The verification of above reports carried out by appropriate bodies has not confirmed violations of U.N. sanctions by Ukraine.

Last July and August, Ukrainian ships made several transit deliveries via the Serbian Danube port of Prahovo where cargoes brought by river were reloaded to railway wagons and delivered to the city of Skopje, Macedonia. These shipments do not contradict the provisions of Resolution 757 permitting any transit across Yugoslavia's territory.

When ships sail out of Ukrainian ports, officers of the State Customs Committee painstakingly inspect cargoes in compliance with requirements laid down by the Security Council Monitoring Committee. Cargoes in the direction of Yugoslavia are permitted for shipment only if they have documents confirming transit.

The foreign office confirms that Ukraine firmly abides by its obligations and does not intend to violate the U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Press Service Reports More Attempted Smuggling

AU2708133292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] The situation at the border between Ukraine and Moldova remains stable, as we were informed yesterday by Colonel Petro Medvid, head of the Press Service of Ukraine's border troops.

At the same time, he stressed that, over the past few days, attempts to smuggle cold steel and firearms into Ukraine have become more frequent. The point is that a great number of uncontrolled weapons have accumulated in neighboring Moldova. There is a concern that criminals are increasingly more often turning for help from representatives of the fair sex, stated Petro Medvid. Over these few days, several submachine gun cartridges have been confiscated from such female helpers; four grenades complete with 40 firing mechanisms, as well as two magnetic mines were also found.

Joint Nuclear Safety Accord Signed With France

LD2708210192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2022 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris August 27 TASS—France and Ukraine will cooperate in ensuring nuclear reactors' safety. A protocol to this effect for 1992-1993 was signed here on Thursday [27 August] by Georgiy Kopchinskiy, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety, Michel Laverine, head of the Directorate for Safety of Nuclear Facilities at the French Ministry of Industry, and Philippe Vesseron, director of the French Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety.

In accordance with the protocol, French specialists will participate in the reconstruction of the Rovno nuclear power station and in the reinforcement of the concrete entombment over the reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

A joint communique of the Directorate for Safety of Nuclear Facilities and of the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety, circulated here, says that the signing of the protocol became possible due to the visit to Ukraine by French Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Dominique Strauss-Kahn on June 29-30. During the visit, he paid special attention to the safety of nuclear power stations in Ukraine.

The document says that German specialists will also participate in the work at the Rovno station. Ukrainian and French nuclear specialists will regularly inspect nuclear facilities in Ukraine and in France.

Successful Talks With Uzbek President Concludes

LD2808021992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov visited Kiev on a two-day official visit. After the negotiations were over, Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Islam Karimov signed the treaty on the main principles of interstate relations, friendship, and cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Uzbekistan. A treaty was concluded between the Governments of Ukraine and the Republic of Uzbekistan on trade and economic cooperation for 1993. It was signed by Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, and Rahim Razhabov, state secretary under the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan. As a result of the negotiations, the protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Uzbekistan was also signed.

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov and the highly placed delegation which escorted him went on an excursion in Kiev and acquainted themselves with its significant monuments. Answering the question of a Ukrteleradio company correspondent of how he assesses the results of the visit to Ukraine, the president of Uzbekistan said:

[Begin Karimov recording] I am satisfied with the results of the visit and with the attitude towards us and the reception which we received. We assessed the current situation once more and adopted the most important document which is called "On the Main Principles of State Interrelations Between the Independent Ukraine and the Independent Uzbekistan" which determines a large field of activities for mutual cooperation. I am convinced that implementation of this document will do good both to Ukraine, the people of Ukraine, and to the people of Uzbekistan. [end recording] [passage omitted]

National Affairs

Further on Expulsion Threat by Kravchuk

Kravchuk Explains Walkout

PM2708124592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Viktor Filippov report: "L. Kravchuk Unhappy With Ukrainian Diaspora's Interference in Ukrainian Affairs"]

[Text] "I walked out of the assembly yesterday, my presence there would have meant that I share its stance and go along with some of the speeches and some of the views," President L. Kravchuk said 25 August in an interview with Ukrainian Television.

The national assembly was concluding the celebrations to mark the first anniversary of Ukrainian independence, and millions of Ukrainian residents watching the live relay of this event were struck by the president's sudden departure.

Summing up the results of the festivities in the interview, L. Kravchuk described the assembly as a rally at which foreign guests advised their hosts how to live. The president said that everyone has the right to their own viewpoint, but it is necessary to respect the laws and norms of international relations. Yet representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora publicly demanded the resignation of the Ukrainian Government. L. Kravchuk regarded these statements as interference in the sovereign republic's affairs and walked out of the assembly in protest.

Explains Threat to Independence

OW2708194692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting with visitors from the Ukrainian communities in the USA and Canada, President Kravchuk said a change of government in Ukraine would put the country's independence in jeopardy. He thought it was surprising that some politicians were seeking to undermine Ukraine's economic and political stability at a time when everything should be done to strengthen it. "If such politicians as Chornovil take power we'll end up with a war," he said.

He was also concerned about the fact that some members of the Ukrainian diaspora had attacked him and the Ukrainian government in their speeches at the World Forum of Ukrainians in Kiev.

He qualified these statements as "direct interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine." "I have instructed the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry," he said, "to prepare an official statement warning that any foreign citizen making such open attacks would be declared a persona non grata and expelled from Ukraine. Let them come to Ukraine, take Ukrainian citizenship, take part in a presidential election, and then enjoy all the rights our citizens have, including the right to criticize the government of independent Ukraine. So far their statements are only serving to make matters worse for they are an impediment to stabilization."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The official Ukrainian information agency UKRINFORM has issued a statement reading, in particular: "The President of Ukraine has authorized the Ukrainian Information Agency to make the following statement: The spirit and letter of the laws of Ukraine, primarily those guarding peace, interethnic tolerance and stability in society, are binding on all citizens of Ukraine without exception, and for its guests as well. Any attempts to split the nation and sow interethnic or social hostility by taking advantage of political disagreements will be qualified as acts highly detrimental to the idea of the national revival of Ukraine, an aim proclaimed in the relevant Manifesto of the political parties, movements, associations, and public organizations both of Ukraine and of the Ukrainian diaspora abroad. A citizen of any foreign country who commits such an act will be expelled from Ukraine, and will never be allowed to visit it again."

At the above-mentioned meeting, Kravchuk also said some Ukrainian politicians demanded the resignation of the present leadership and a new parliamentary election, wanted to bring a lawsuit against the former Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and insisted that Ukraine leave the CIS. "However, with our present situation all this may prove disastrous for the country. We may not be going ahead too fast but we are moving without confrontations or bloodshed," the President said.

Further on Kravchuk Statement

LD2708210192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Statement by the Ukrainian Information Agency; place and date of issue not given—read by announcer; no video available]

[Text] The World Forum of Ukrainians, held in Kiev on 21-24 August, was a significant event which crowned the

first anniversary of independent Ukraine. Ukrainians from all over the world, people of different political convictions, religions, and social status, gathered for the first time in their own capital on what is now their own land. There were frank interested conversations about the ways to achieve unity, to consolidate around the same aim—to build an independent democratic Ukraine.

Unfortunately, speeches of a different character were also heard at the forum. Certain foreign participants attempted to use the high rostrum to propagate narrow party and group views on the present and the future of the Ukrainian state. Some of them called directly for opposition to the government, the Supreme Soviet, and the president.

Not wishing to spoil the festive mood which prevailed, the Ukrainian president, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the government assumed a restrained attitude to these—to put it mildly—tactless expressions, and considered it appropriate not to resort to the kind of action that is generally accepted in such cases.

However, those who regard restraint as weakness or, which is even worse, as readiness to carry out someone's instructions, are mistaken. On the instructions of the Ukrainian president, the Ukrainian Information Agency is authorized to state:

Adherence to the spirit and the letter of the laws of Ukraine, first of all those guarding peace, accord, and interethnic calm and stability in society, are obligatory for all citizens of Ukraine without exception, and also for its guests. Any attempts to split people, to sow interethnic or social enmity and hostility by taking advantage of interparty conflicts will be assessed as causing great harm to the idea of the state revival of Ukraine, the aspiration to which is expressed in the manifesto of political parties, movements, associations, groupings, public organizations from both Ukraine and the foreign Ukrainian diaspora. A citizen of any state who commits such actions will be expelled from Ukraine and will not have the right to visit it ever again.

The world forum of Ukrainians expressed the pannational aspiration to harmony and mutual understanding, to accord in the large Ukrainian family in the name of freedom, democracy, and justice. The Ukrainian state will do everything permitted by the law to defend and foster this aspiration.

Kravchuk Receives Exiles

LD2708214592 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Aug 92

[No video available]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today received Bohdan Fedoruk, chief of the Ukrainian State Administration, and Boris Potapenko, director of the chancery of the Ukrainian State Administration.

The administration, created in the summer of 1941, when a people's meeting in accordance with the decision of [words indistinct] proclaimed the revival of the Ukrainian state in Lvov, has already resigned. Bohdan Fedoruk expressed personal gratitude to the Ukrainian president for his great contribution to the building of an independent state and wished him firm progress on that path.

In response, Leonid Kravchuk said he is pleased with the support of compatriots, their understanding of the difficulties Ukraine faces in the process of creating statehood. This was also confirmed by the World Forum of Ukrainians which ended recently in Kiev.

At the same time, the Ukrainian president asked that the diaspora be informed of his warning against attempts—which took place both at the forum and during the people's gathering—to incite people to disobey the current authorities, against tactless lecturing, and against attacks on the government and the president. Representatives of other states must behave in Ukraine in a tolerant manner, and we will not allow a repetition of similar speeches. The Foreign Ministry has been instructed to prepare an appropriate statement to say that persons violating established norms and creating conflicts will have to leave our state without the right to visit it again, no matter who he or she may be.

The theme of building an independent state and the ways of developing Ukraine in the short and the long term was continued during another meeting, when the Ukrainian president received today a group of representatives of the Western diaspora, participants of the world forum of Ukrainians, headed by (Yaroslav Sokolyk) from Canada. Our duty is to help you in this difficult time, (Yaroslav Sokolyk) said, handing Leonid Kravchuk a stand with commemorative medals made in Toronto for the occasion of the first anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

During the conversation, the guests stated that they do not share the opinions or support the actions of certain representatives of the diaspora who made offensive speeches about the Ukrainian leadership.

Dwelling on the problem under discussion, Leonid Kravchuk noted that the demands of certain politicians to resort to extreme radical actions—to change the leading cadres, to hold early elections to the Supreme Soviet, to put the CPSU on trial, and, finally, to leave the CIS—will not do Ukraine any good. Our young state and its people may simply not endure such abrupt development of events. Ukraine, as never before, needs all democratic forces to unite and work for a single objective—to build an independent law-governed state. Let us move forward, not necessarily fast, but without confrontation and bloodshed.

Rukh Deputy Chairman Supports Kravchuk Statement

AU2708135492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Oleksandr Lavrynovych, one of the deputy chairmen of Rukh [Ukraine's People's Movement for

Perestroyka], in an interview to a correspondent of the RESPUBLIKA Agency, voiced support for the UKRINFORM statement made yesterday on the request of Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk. Let me remind you that it deals with the intention to expel foreign citizens, even those of Ukrainian origin, from Ukraine if they do harm to the idea of state rebirth.

Oleksandr Lavrynovych said, in particular: I believe that this statement is perfectly justified and that it not only has a real legal foundation, but is also meant for making Ukraine a civilized and rule-of-law state. Not a single state in the world would allow foreign citizens to criticize its present government, demand its reform or resignation, or impose upon it any schemes of state development that differ from those presently adhered to.

Whether this is an official position of Rukh will become clear after Rukh Chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil returns from a foreign commission. Observers expect that Chornovil will express the opposition's ultimate point of view on the latest statements by Ukraine's president.

Rukh Leader on Political, Economic Situation

AU2708174692 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 27 Aug 92 p 3

[Brigitte Voykowitsch report: "Ex-Communists Active"]

[Text] Vienna—"The biggest successes in Ukraine last year were the introduction of political pluralism, the first steps toward founding a Ukrainian national army, and the fact that in the Ukraine there were neither social nor national conflicts. Today Ukraine is one of the most stable countries of the former USSR."

"Now to the negative points: In reality, we do not yet have a state," says Vyacheslaw Chornovil, president of the largest Ukrainian opposition group Rukh (Movement), who lost to current head of state Leonid Kravchuk in the presidential elections last December. On Tuesday [25 August] former dissident Chornovil, who spent 12 years in prisons and labor camps in the ex-USSR because of "bourgeois nationalist" views, spent a few hours in Vienna on his way to the Dialogue Congress Ukraine, which will begin in Alpbach today, 27 August. In an interview with DER STANDARD, he drew up a brief balance sheet of domestic policy and economy.

"Not Yet a State"

"In reality we do not yet have a state. Ukraine does not have any borders, any customs checks, in particular in the east and in the north. Above all, we do not yet have a real domestic and economic policy. The members of the former communist nomenklatura continue to work at all government and administrative echelons. Our conservative government has not introduced an economic reform. We do not have our own financial system an our own currency. The spiral of inflation in Russia drags us along." (Ukraine is still part of the ruble zone. The introduction of the hrynya has been postponed until December. The coupons, which are a transition measure, declined by 50 percent compared with the ruble. Inflation amounts to 20 percent per month.)

Rukh recognizes Kravchuk's election to the first president of independent Ukraine on 1 December 1991, at the moment his resignation is not an issue. However, according to Chornovil, "we are of the opinion that the 61 percent of votes for Kravchuk were possible primarily because he was supported by the former Communist Party and its apparatus. He used the slogans of Rukh as a mantle of propaganda. He never advocated its interests."

Calling for New Elections

The parliament, however, which was elected during the communist rule and "does not reflect the current political situation in Ukraine," should be dissolved as quickly as possible, if Chornovil had his will. On 1 September Rukh will start a motion for a referendum to this effect. It is the movement's goal to form a government of national unity and to achieve new parliamentary elections.

By strengthening and developing the multiparty system, it is now primarily important for Rukh to counter the attempts to introduce "an authoritarian regime—a rule of the president's representatives in various regions. The current rulers want this system to be anchored in the new Constitution," Chornovil stresses.

Concerning the former Communist Party itself, Chornovil says that Rukh is now starting to investigate all crimes, which were committed under the communist regime in Ukraine: "The point is not persecuting the people because they were members of the party. We want to condemn the ideology and prevent it from being revived ever again."

Kravchuk Outlines Policy Principles

LD2708214292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk has stated that in the second year of independence, Ukrainian policy will be based on four principles: decisiveness, firmness, demonopolization, and privatization. At the same time, the president stressed that as a democratic state, Ukraine should have military power.

Prospects for Future Military Conscriptions Poor

LD2708170192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zaika—TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 27 TASS—As many as 103.6 per cent [as received] of young people were drafted into the Ukrainian

Army and Navy during the spring call-up. But despite the optimistic figure, the first-ever draft into the Republican Army was notable for a high rate of conscripts: Every third of them failed medical examinations and was found unfit for military service, and 1,800 people failed to answer the summons of enlistment offices.

Forecasts for the autumn draft are no better, points out NARODNAYA ARMIA (PEOPLE'S ARMY), newspaper of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence. This has been brought about by a natural shrinking of the draft resources, a dangerous ecological situation in the region, a slackened monitoring of medical and health-building measures, the lack of a legislative basis regulating the draft, and so on.

Cabinet Resolves To Reform Military Education

AU2708134592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution on reforming the system of military education. It envisages the creation of a number of institutions of higher learning. These are, in particular, the Academy of Ukraine's Armed Forces in Kiev, the Kharkiv Military University, the Kiev Military and Humanities Institute, the Odessa Ground Forces Institute, and the Sevastopol Naval Institute. In accordance with the resolution, military lyceums will be opened in Kiev and in Lvov. The school year will begin on 1 September 1992.

Kravchuk Visits Kiev Air Force Institute

AU2708141292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Determination, firmness, demonopolization, and privatization are the main trends that Ukraine will follow during the second year of its independence. This was stated by Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk during his visit to the Kiev Institute of Ukraine's Air Forces. He also emphasized that particular firmness will be exercised regarding those who resist the course for independence that has been chosen by Ukraine's people.

The president pointed out that, in building a democratic, rule-of-law, and humanitarian state we, at the same time, do not deny the need for military might. The Kiev Institute of Ukraine's Air Force that has highly professional scientific cadres and a corresponding material foundation must become a constituent part and a leader of the Ukrainian military aviation science.

An idea was also expressed about the importance of the development and expansion of cooperation with other states, including Russia, in the sphere of aircraft construction.

Leonid Kravchuk familiarized himself with the institute's classrooms and research laboratories and their equipment and tried out the simulator of combat utilization of missiles against ground targets. Then he met with professors, teachers, and students of the educational institution and answered their questions.

During the president's visit to the military institution of higher learning, he was accompanied by Ukraine Minister of Defense Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov.

This was yesterday's event. Today, Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in Zaporizhzhya Oblast. This is a working trip for the purpose of learning about the political and socioeconomic situation in the region. The head of the Ukrainian state spent the first half of the day on the state farm Chapayevskyy in Vilnyanskyy Rayon. There he asked about the course of harvesting and what the farm is going to do with the grain harvest.

Leonid Kravchuk also visited the state farm's animal complex. After that, the president inspected the construction site of a new fleet of motor vehicles in Zaporizhzhya. Next, the program envisaged a visit to the Medical Institute, a meeting with the collective of the production association Radioprylad [Radio Equipment], and also a conversation with the leaders of Zaporizhzhya Oblast.

Insurgent Army Demands To Be Exonerated

OW2708204392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The conference called "The Ukrainian Insurgent Army [UIA] and the Struggle for Liberation in Ukraine in 1940-1945" has closed. The participants called on the Ukrainian leadership to recognize the Ukrainian Insurgent Army as a party to the war and extend the privileges of the Second World War and Afghan veterans to its soldiers and officers.

The participants of the conference demanded that activities of the Communist Parties of the Soviet Union and Ukraine, as well as of repressive state machinery to "suppress Ukraine's movement for national liberation" be investigated, and Russian archives regarding the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, declassified. The nationalists supported the idea of making UIA history part of the school curriculum and immortalizing memory of Ukrainian fighters in monuments and geographical names.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Veterans' Council Presidium has decided to appeal to the President, Parliament and General Prosecutor to protest against the exoneration of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, the "Kharkov-Novosti" news agency reports.

Security Service Cautions Against Xenophobia

AU2708141892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Any exacerbation of the political struggle that will, God forbid, put forward the slogan—Ukraine for Ukrainians!—would be a great misfortune. This was emphasized by Major General Yevhen Marchuk, chairman of Ukraine's

Security Service, in an interview published in today's issue of the newspaper MOLOD UKRAYINY. He stressed that it is necessary to explain to the people in every way that this slogan is detrimental to us, because here, in Ukraine, there reside an enormous number of nations.

The general assured that Ukraine's Security Service will do everything possible to prevent anti-Semitism or any interethnic strife. The provocateurs will be made answerable before the law, he stressed.

Kravchuk Begins 2-Day Visit to Eastern Regions

OW2708200392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1754 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk has today begun a two-day working tour of Zaporozhye and Dnepropetrovsk Regions in the east of Ukraine. According to his press service, this is a routine trip to look at the social and economic atmosphere in the republic's leading industrial and agricultural regions. He will visit large industrial enterprises and farms, and will meet the heads of regional administration.

In particular Kravchuk will visit a stock-breeding complex near Zaporozhye, as well as one of Ukraine's largest medical colleges and a radio-making plant situated in that city. In Dnepropetrovsk Region the President will see some of the latest locally-made equipment for processing agricultural produce and manufacturing consumer goods, will go to the site where a new bridge is being built over the Dnieper, and will make a tour of agricultural areas. He will also meet the heads of regional administration in both cities. On Saturday [29 August] Kravchuk is expected to arrive in Lvov, where he will make a speech at a meeting held in one of the local theaters.

Currency Coupon Depreciates Against Ruble

PM2708143192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[AEN report: "Ukrainian Coupon Falls in Value"]

[Text] The exchange rate of the Ukrainan coupon to the ruble [R] has reached the level of R1 to 1.5-1.6 coupons for the population of Odessa.

The coupon's 10-percent "depreciation" in just one week is due, to all appearances, to the increasing demand for rubles among Russian citizens leaving the Black Sea beaches as the holiday season comes to a close. Moreover, the Russian Government's decision to allow rubles to be freely exchanged for hard currency has also whipped up demand for rubles in Ukraine. Some 300 coupons are now being asked in Odessa for $1, while the rate in Khmelnitskiy and Ternopol is 310.

Gorbachev's Dacha Handed Over to Authorities

LD2708212892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The recent agreement between Russia and Ukraine, signed in the Crimea by the presidents of the two countries, left many questions unanswered in regards to the dividing up of Union property between the two former republics. In particular, the fate of the state dachas and the subunits guarding them is incomprehensible.

Of special interest is Gorbachev's dacha, or Facility Zarya. We asked the State Preservation Directorate of Ukraine about this.

[Begin unidentified official recording] On 8 June, in keeping with an instruction from the president of Ukraine, the dachas located in the Crimea and served by a unit of the 9th Administration were handed over to the jurisdiction of Ukraine. The facilities are to be used for the leisure of the nationals of the Republic of Ukraine and Crimea and also the CIS, and for holding international events. The facility is in good technical condition. It is not threatened by any overall subsidence. Since President Gorbachev, no one has vacationed at the facility. [end recording]

Parliament Chief Comments on Outside Agitators

LD2708212992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2024 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The TRUD newspaper on Thursday [27 August] carried an interview with Ukrainian parliament chief Ivan Plyushch. "I become increasingly convinced that there still are forces in Russia which want to set our peoples at loggerheads in an internecine strife," he said.

Plyushch referred to a message sent to the CIS heads of state by retired Admiral Kalinin who warned that "a sanguinary incident will possibly happen in the Black Sea Fleet" and that "some people still want to play a Black-Sea-Fleet card". This assertion by the admiral, in the opinion of Plyushch, should be viewed as an aspiration of those who do not want stabilisation in Ukrainian-Russian relations and "who would like to continue to regard Ukraine in the role of a 'younger brother'".

"We want one thing, namely, that no one meddles in the building of our sovereign state," Plyushch stated. Unfortunately, he added, not only the have-beens suffer from great-power disease. Some people from among those who are now at the helm of power in Russia have not got rid of this dangerous malady either.

Speaking about the present-day political and socio-economic situation in Ukraine, the parliament chief estimated it as a "satisfactory" one on the whole.

"The Ukrainian Parliament together with the president seek to consolidate society and to prevent inter-ethnic or other discord the kind of the one observed in Moldova and in the Caucasus. We gained our independence without a single drop or blood. We now do a great deal to maintain national concord and tranquility," Plyushch said.

Scientists Develop Program for Nuclear Waste

OW2708204592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian scientists develop a program for disposing of nuclear waste that has been highly praised by US, Dutch, French and Swedish scientists, says one of its architects, Ukrainian Geology Institute official Dmitriy Khruschyov. The program envisages long-term and ecologically safe depositing and final dumping of nuclear waste at medium and great depths in three basic soil formations: crystalline, saline and argillaceous.

The program has been submitted to the Ukrainian government for consideration. The scientists expect to receive allocations for the program, which has already been launched in 1993.

Official Describes Work of State Guards

AU2708112092 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 21 Aug 92 p 3

[Report by HOLOS UKRAYINY special correspondent Anatoliy Ben: "We Have Completed Our Inspection—There Are No Mines! Keep Closer to the President, However"]

[Text] "Hello, this is my warning: There is a mine in the hall where you are holding your meeting. It will explode in 30 minutes." The statement is followed by a busy signal.

Where is a guarantee that such telephone warnings will not be heard during the World Forum of Ukrainians? Last year, for example, there were similar threats during the Congress of Ukrainians. One such call was made right before the beginning of the news conference.

The guards, so to speak, took the message, but decided not to disturb the audience. One of the leaders of the service took the responsibility upon himself: The service guarantees that nothing serious will happen.... Of course, to be on the safe side, the conference hall that was still empty was examined again.

Officers from the State Guard Administration that, following the August putsch, did not remain within the KGB department and are now directly subordinate to the Ukraine president, are making themselves visible to the participants in the Forum of Ukrainians at the entrance of the "Ukrayina" Palace.

One is confronted with quite unobtrusive "service":

"Your invitation, please. Please enter."

A brief, appraising glance. Don't worry, everything has been evaluated. Prior to the forum, with the agreement of the Organizing Committee ("if you want us to guarantee security"), thousands of invitations passed through one of the guard departments and were marked with invisible dots or lines. Only these cards will "pass," of course, if there are no suspicious corrections or something like that.

We heard that "in those times" passes were issued for all participants, without exception, even for Shcherbytskyy. It is a different matter whether he ever held his pass. The guards themselves assure that they would not let anyone in without a pass. They even recall that one of the Supreme Council leaders had problems with this.

No doubt it is not only your invitation but your handbag or attache case that, if they look suspicious, will be "surveyed" by a scrupulous visual inspection or, in some cases, by hand.

This is the entire visible part of the iceberg called guard service. Perhaps someone's keen eye will notice several athletic-looking men in the audience, men who are ready for any "surprise." More specifically, they are primarily there to prevent such surprises from happening—shooting, fighting, or panic.

Everything else is outside the frame. There also are operational groups, special equipment, firemen, and all other necessary services....

Of course, there is much preparatory work.... Only a perfect dilettante would believe that the security service arrives at this "Ukrayina" Palace concurrently with the guests, or with the people it is guarding, or even one or two hours earlier. In reality, even the lowest-rank employees—an electrician or a cleaning woman—know that the palace was "occupied" several days prior to the undertaking.

There are more than one hundred rooms here, halls, auxiliary premises, and so on, and more than 320 doors. All of them, even the most obscure corners, are "screened" by brigades formed by the State Guards Administration: Perhaps, someone has "left behind" an explosive object. Are the electricity and gas supply systems and water and sewage passageways safe? Everything that, with the help of evil intentions, may lead to an accident, explosion, or simply panic within the audience. Nor are freshly painted areas, carefully dusted surfaces, or screws with scratches on them left unnoticed....

Did anything suspicious happen?

My "guide"—Volodymyr Sharha, deputy chief of a subdivision of the State Guards Administration—recalls that once, after the end of an inspection, he was astounded when a senior official declared that the boys had failed to detect an explosive. It turned out that there was a bizarre room that had no name and was not even marked on the map of the building, yet had several doorways. V. Sharha himself went to locate that device and found it right away—he rushed to a sand box and pulled a "doll" out of it—an object planted by the chief just to check [our vigilance]. I wanted to know how he guessed so easily. It turned out that one has to put himself in the place of a terrorist. A sand box is the best hiding place. An electric transformer is nearby and a cumulative charge will hit it cleanly....

After the inspection is completed, no unauthorized persons are admitted into the palace. The guards thoroughly check everything that is brought to it for the forum, including food, cakes, bottled water, and so on.

Besides, the guards also have the necessary information from the Ukraine Security Service.

"That is why," sums up that same Volodymyr Sharha, "when we hear on the telephone that explosives have been planted in the facility that we are guarding we take this information seriously but soberly, and, as a rule, ensure that the organizers of the event are not disturbed. We guarantee almost 100 percent safety to the leaders of the state present at the activity. Incidentally, each of them arrives with his own bodyguards. The guarantee is slightly lower for those who are at a distance from them. After all, someone may enter unnoticed with a gas pistol or some other explosive device that is capable of causing harm, no matter how insignificant it may be.

So far, there have been no such cases, knock on wood.

Crimean Tatars Return to Ancestors' Land

OW2708183492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 180,000 Crimean Tatars returned to the land of their ancestors, said Lantun Bezaziyev, deputy chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers, at a press conference in Simferopol. The Tatars were deported from the Crimea in 1944 on orders from Stalin who accused them of having collaborated with the German invaders.

According to L. Bezaziyev, the process of their return is complicated by the fact that only 15% of housing construction for them is covered by government allocations. In the meantime, he said, "there are no people capable of assessing the state of the economy professionally" among the local authorities representing the Tatars. "The Majlis in the Crimea has given nothing to its people: not a single sq. [square] meter of floor space, not a single kilometer of roads", L. Bezaziyev pointed out.

Belarus

Bank Obtains Monopoly on Precious Metals, Stones

LD2808022292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1549 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Anna Gladysheva for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 27 Aug—From now on, the right to buy or sell precious metals and stones on the territory of Belarus belongs only to the national bank. All direct deals in them between physical persons are forbidden.

Included in the elements of the Medeleyev Table protected by the state are: gold, silver, platinum, rhodium, palladium, ruthenium, osmium, components made from them, and also coins. Of stones, only the most expensive are included: cut and uncut diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and pearls. At the same time, the government and main bank have no objection to citizens buying from each other, inheriting, or giving away jewellery and other articles made from these metals and stones—but within certain limits. First, they must bear a hallmark, which of course must be genuine. Second, if a man wants to give his beloved a pearl necklace, for example, he will have to marry her first, since such gifts are only allowed between close relatives. Well, and if the value of the gift is more than five times the minimum wage (in Belarus, 5,250 rubles), it must be presented in the presence of a notary.

Republic's New Draft Constitution Published

PM2708140992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Mikhail Shimanskiy report: "Draft Belarusian Constitution Published"]

[Text] Minsk—The Republic of Belarus, the draft constitution reads, is a unitary, democratic, rule-of-law state.

Democracy in the republic is exercised on the basis of diverse political institutions, ideologies, and opinions. The draft incorporates a new section entitled "Defense and National Security." It says that the military doctrine, structure, and organizations of the republic's Armed Forces are determined by parliament. The chapter on the president has been abandoned in view of the contradictory opinions in the republic regarding the institution of the presidency.

Military Legislation Discussed at News Conference

LD2808022692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1708 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy]

[Text] Minsk, 27 Aug—The status of neutral nuclear-free state declared by the republic still remains the basis of Belarus' military policy and defense concept. This was announced by Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, and Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy, defense minister, at a news conference today.

The news conference was held in connection with the work, started on 25 August, to finalize a package of military draft laws which should be submitted to the Belarus Supreme Soviet for a second reading at the routine autumn session. It was stressed that it was impermissible to procrastinate any further with the adoption of these fundamental acts, which are to consolidate constitutionally, the legal status of the republic's Armed Forces, its defense concept, and the principles of constructing and running a national army.

Vyacheslav Kuznetsov noted that the republic's military laws are being drawn up taking into account all the bilateral and multilateral agreements of Belarus in the military sphere with CIS states and international treaties on reducing armed forces and armaments.

Moldova

UN Security Council Mission Arrives in Dniester

LD2708144892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1341 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—It was calm in the Dniester area over the past 24 hours. According to a report by the OLVIA-PRESS news agency, a U.N. Security Council mission led by Mr. Gilberto Schlitler departed from Tiraspol for Chisinau on Wednesday evening [26 August].

Apart from Tiraspol, the U.N. representatives visited Dubossary and Bendery, met servicemen from the peace-keeping force and population of Moldova's left-bank areas. The mission head had a detailed talk with Dniester Parliament Speaker Grigoriy Marakutsa.

According to Schlitler, the mission's main task is to help political stabilisation in the area and to assess military and humanitarian aspects of the problem. He expressed satisfaction that the conflict was settled without the international community's interference.

Schlitler stressed that the United Nations did not intend to dispatch troops to Moldova. He said that the U.N. plans to give humanitarian aid to the Dniester population.

Snegur Meets UN Mission

AU2808094692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0912 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Chisinau (ROMPRES) 28/8/1992—Mircea Snegur, the president of the Republic of Moldova had an interview with the members of the UN fact-finding mission headed by Gilberto Schitler, who conveyed the president the opinion of the UN secretary general, which

he, as head of department shared, that the signing of the Moldo-Russian Convention on the principles governing the peaceful settlement of the conflict and the reestablishment of peace required from the Moldovan president a special courage, which he displayed at the right moment, MOLDOVA PRES informs.

"Only those who do not assume responsibilities and who do not know what war means can speak against the Convention," president Snegur said. "The cease-fire agreement opened wide prospects for a continued political dialogue." President Snegur estimated that the second meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin might play a decisive role in speeding up the positive course.

This second meeting is intended for the settling of concrete measures regarding the further normalisation of the situation in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova.

UN To Supervise Cease-Fire

LD2708194492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRES - TASS correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau, 27 August—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur today met with the UN mission headed by Gilberto Schlitler, which has arrived in Chisinau.

The members of the mission stated with satisfaction that since their first working visit, qualitative changes had taken place in relations between people. The process of restoring economic ties has begun—a fact which will pave the way for future political contacts. A positive view was taken of the Moldovan prime minister's visit to the left bank, where he held talks with representatives of the local authorities. It was also noted that a reliable peace will be established only if everybody gives up their ambitions.

During the conversation, it was agreed that a group of observers, UN experts, will participate in the monitoring [kontrol] of the observation of the cease-fire conditions and also help overcome any differences which may arise.

Stability in Bendery Leads to Shortened Curfew

LD2708213992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1646 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Bendery, 27 Aug—In connection with the stabilization of the situation in Bendery, the town's curfew has been shortened. It now begins at 2300 and ends at 0500.

Snegur Speech on Independence Anniversary

AU2708200092 Chisinau Moldovan Television in Romanian 1800 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Speech by Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, at a parliament session marking the first anniversary of Moldova's independence proclamation, in Chisinau on 27 August—recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, honored audience, and much esteemed people:

A year ago, in this very hall, the parliament unanimously proclaimed the state independence of the Republic of Moldova, thus expressing the will and dreams of all our people, who are worthy of our nation's history and of Stephen the Great's [Romanian 16th century ruler] cross and sword, thanks to their faith and virtues and their love for the homeland and freedom.

We proclaimed our independence and sovereignty to be able to independently decide our fate and to build our future in the historical and ethnic area of our national birth, in full accordance with our ideals and traditions and with the general human values.

This act of major significance would not have had any chance of success if it had only been a circumstantial moment or an impulsive action. However, it was a natural outcome of the strivings of the people, in whose many quiet layers, as Nicolae Iorga [Romanian historian and politician in the first half of the 20th century] said, great strength resides in abundance. It was also the start of a road opened by the words of the intelligentsia, the daring of the young people, and the support of the hundreds of thousands of people, who have rallied at the three great national meetings and firmly spoke out for independence, for our language, for the Latin alphabet, and for the national symbols.

In August 1991 we took the first and most difficult and resolute step, breaking away from the communist totalitarianism and the dictatorship of a single party, and moving toward a state of law and democracy. Now, one year after the independence proclamation, we can prove to the whole world and, more importantly, to ourselves, that we are able to assert our independence by solving the complicated problems of the transition period and overcoming the inheritance of the communist system, which failed to implement its own slogan of everything for man and for man's benefit.

We are all feeling the burden of this inheritance. How right our great writer Ion Druta was when he said that each generation inherits a number of sins from its predecessors, for which it must pay. We were probably picked out to pay for the greatest sins. After scores of years of communist experiences, we, like the other new democracies of East Europe, found ourselves in the classical situation of the dead clinging to the living. Thus, the policy of excessive specialization, which was supposed to create the flourishing garden of the union,

led to the artificial division of our potential into the overagricultural right bank of the Dniester River and the overindustrialized left bank and to an overintegration in the economic space of the former USSR and in the sphere of the agonizing ruble.

Megalomaniacal and totally unjustified projects led to the barbarian exploitation of our resources and hard-working people, whom God meant to be good administrators on this piece of heavenly land named Moldova. Consequently, we found ourselves in a reservation, rather than a garden, faced with an extremely serious ecological situation. We were number one in the former Union regarding the population's density, due to artificially stimulated immigration, and number one in Europe regarding mortality, including infant mortality; we were also the last in Europe as far as longevity is concerned.

With the independence proclamation, the means were created to solve these problems. Nevertheless, we were unable to work in peace this year, due to the fact that the influence of pro-imperial forces is still very great and that many supporters of these forces are still in the country. One of the greatest relapses of the totalitarianism and the greatest trial for our young democracy was the armed conflict into which we were drawn against our will. This was a desperate attempt of the red-brown forces to crush our independence and liberate—quote unquote—our lands, as they have done before, on the pretext of defending their kin. As you know, violence will always look for justifications, in the illusion of guaranteeing their own rights against somebody else's attempts on those rights. This conflict was also a test for the democratic forces in Russia, a test imposed by those wishing to recreate the empire on a nationalistic-patriotic wave.

We have always striven for a political and diplomatic solution of the conflict. However, when the sword was raised against us, we were also forced to let go of the plow, and take up arms. The worthiest sons of our nation bravely held up their shields and honorably did their holy duty to the fatherland. Today, we bow before the memory of those who gave their lives for our independence. We share the sorrow of the families and mothers of our heroes. We will do everything to support those who had to suffer, including from a material viewpoint. The respective resolution was adopted at the first meeting of the new government. It will be implemented, point by point, without hesitation.

The consequences of this conflict will be felt for a long time to come. Economic losses are estimated at about 12 billion rubles, with at least another 15 billion rubles required to rebuild the destroyed localities and units. The problem of refugees has acquired great urgency. We were affected very seriously by the premeditated blockage of our economic and financial links, of gas and raw materials deliveries, and of our railways, which, if it had continued, would have brought our economy to ruin.

History will yet have its say. What is certain is that we resisted and managed, through energetic and firm efforts, to end the bloodshed through negotiations, by signing the Moscow convention. That convention was worked out here, in Chisinau, with the approval and endorsement of the Supreme Security Council. This is the truth. There was no other solution in sight at the time.

The cease-fire and the troop disengagement is the first and most urgent task. However, a second and no less important stage will then follow, when we examine the status of the respective zone, with a view to reinstating the constitutional organs and thus ensuring the mechanisms for their function. The main thing is that we have peace and are understood and supported by the people, who also endorse the initiative to solve the conflict through political negotiations with our opponents, negotiations that can be expected to be tough, rather than smooth.

We feel that we are also endorsed in our efforts to reestablish advantageous ties with the East, that is, with partners in the CIS countries. We are also making steady efforts to open the gates to the West. The world community, the UN, the U.S., and other countries have expressed—for the first time quite openly—their empathy toward our young state, and they took the appropriate stands in this matter. For instance, the U.S. granted us the most favored nation status in trade, our country thus becoming one of the first CIS countries to enjoy this right.

Our highest appreciation and gratitude goes to Romania, whose support at the time of great trials for Moldova's independence and integrity was felt by everyone. I must say that, at this time, Moldova's independence and integral borders are recognized by 112 countries. We have already established diplomatic ties with 62 countries, and we will soon establish ties with several other states in the near future. While thanking the world community for the political support and humanitarian assistance, we hope that we will also enjoy a real economic assistance, to help us overcome the current serious economic crisis and to facilitate our return to Europe.

A year of independence is too short a time to make broad generalizations. I would like to say that it was both a romantic and a hard period of search for our identity and place in the world. In this year, we realized that independence can be ensured through the establishment of a strong state, and that running a state is a difficult burden and a professional job. It is impossible to find final solutions to all problems in just one year. However, as an old Latin saying points out, from what has been done already, one can judge what can yet be done.

From our achievements, I would like to point out the following: We set up the bases of the political structure of our democracy and created the legal foundation for defining our young state as a state of law, in accordance with international norms and practice, to which we adhered without any kind of doubts or reservations. This is eloquently proved by the Parliament's adoption of a

package of 67 laws, 196 resolutions, and seven statements designed to separate the legislative, executive, and judicial powers and define the functions of each branch.

On behalf of the republic's leadership, I extend to you and all the people heartfelt congratulations on the independence anniversary. May this modest celebration encourage us to new victories along the road of the fatherland's and people's prosperity. Thank you for the attention. [applause]

Further on Anniversary Festivities

AU2708183692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1755 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 27/8/1992—In an atmosphere strongly marked by tragic memories of the war imposed on Moldova, which resulted in hundreds of dead and wounded, one year was celebrated in Chisinau and other towns on August 27 since the adoption by the parliament of the declaration of independence, ROMPRES envoy reports.

Festivities started with a wreath laying ceremony at the monument of Stephen the Great in Chisinau.

A solemn sitting of the parliament was held when a moment's silence was observed in the memory of those who died in the war for the defense of the independence and integrity of the republic;

In his address President Mircea Snegur, after referring to the significance of the event, stated that over this period the republic had been heavily tried by the conflict with the Russian-speaking separatists which caused about 12-billion ruble worth of damage to the economy besides another 15 billion ruble necessary to rebuild settlements and establishments destroyed.

Mr. Snegur expressed highest appreciation of and gratitude to Romania "whose support in the moments of great difficulty for Moldova's independence and integrity we have all felt."

Among those who took the floor were deputy Gheorghe Ghimpu, Academician Mihai Cimpoi (who said inter alia: "We have a government which promises reforms in an excellent Russian language"), Emil Mitzcal, chairman of the executive in Dubasari, Colonel Anton Gamurar, commander of the Special Police Brigade, who spoke about those who died in the battles against the Russian-speaking separatists.

Next, the speaker of the parliament of the Republic of Moldova read the message of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of Romania on Moldova's independence day.

Situation in Eastern Districts Reported

AU2708153892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1321 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 27/8/1992—Now, when the armed conflict in Transdniestria started by the separatists has ended and life should return to normal, the Moldovans in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova feel like offenders of the law in a foreign country, the MOLDOVA-PRES news agency comments. Allowed to cross the Dniester at the Dubasari Water Power Plant are only people with a residence visa. The others are compelled to ask permits from the Commander's Office in Dubasari where they are questioned as if they were offenders of the law on the purpose of their entry into the Dniestrian Republic of Moldova. They are confronted with lists including the names of undesirable persons and persons sought after by Smirnov's people. On one such lists was also the name of journalist Nadejda Scorici, who worked for the district newspaper Drapelul Biruintei, which the separatists closed down. Her dwelling was robbed and she was compelled to remain among the refugees in Chisinau.

Ambassador Aims To Counter Mistrust of Russia

PM2708130992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Viktor Volodin report: "Moldova Still Fears Repeat of 'Yugoslav Scenario'"]

[Text] Left Bank forces are trying to present the incipient peacemaking process in Moldova as a victory for the Dniester region, which may provoke a negative reaction in the south and in other areas of the republic, Moldovan Ambassador Petr Luchinskiy has said.

At a press conference to mark the anniversary of the proclamation of Moldovan independence, P. Luchinskiy said that the question of its state system remains open. However, the idea of "federalization" is not acceptable since people in Moldova still fear that if the situation worsens again on the pattern of Yugoslavia, the territories in the east may end up cut off.

Summing up the first year of independence, the Moldovan ambassador noted that the process of obtaining independence is proceeding painfully, overshadowed as it is by military operations. There has been a move away from confrontation since the peacekeeping forces were brought into the conflict zone. However, even in these conditions, the Left Bank of the Dniester is still reinforcing the power structures set up there previously.

The ambassador voiced a positive opinion of the mutual attempts made by Russia and Moldova to eliminate the confrontation. In this connection he pointed out the steps taken to withdraw the Russian airborne regiment from Chisinau and the bilateral talks on the withdrawal and division of the 14th Army's property. At this juncture P. Luchinskiy said that Moldova will not prevent servicemen from remaining in the republic and is willing to resolve the problems of their social structure with Russia.

Touching on relations between Chisinau and Moscow, the ambassador noted that there is mistrust of Russia in his state and he sees his task as being to overcome this.

"I did not want to become ambassador, but I accepted the offer of this post in a desire to help my republic, bearing in mind my knowledge of Russia," P. Luchinskiy said—he used to hold lofty posts in the former USSR within the CPSU Central Committee apparatus and in the union republic parties.

'Federalization' Unlikely

MK2708150592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Aug 92 p 1

[NEGA report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Moldovan Ambassador Met with the Press"]

[Text] "In the atmosphere of the tenuous peace reached in Moldova recently, the republic government's main task is to shift the emphasis away from political to economic life," Petr Luchinskiy, Moldovan Ambassador in Moscow, declared at his press conference to mark the anniversary of the Moldovan Republic's declaration of independence. Luchinskiy said: "Moldova's state structure remains an open question, but the word 'federalization' is unlikely to be heard. The fear of isolation and the desire for status are too great. If the situation is exacerbated, Moldova could turn into a new Yugoslavia." Luchinskiy accorded a positive evaluation to mutual efforts by Russia and Moldova to eradicate confrontation in the Dniester region. At the same time, Luchinskiy pointed out that Moldova is not preventing Russian servicemen from staying in the republic, and it is ready in conjunction with Russia to solve the problems concerning their social provision.

Romanian Parties Nominate Moldovans Candidates

PM2408145392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Aug 92 First Edition p 7

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS column report: "Will Romanian Parliament Have 'Its Own Moldovans'?"]

[Text] 21 Aug—Some Romanian political formations have included citizens of the Republic of Moldova in the lists of future parliamentary candidates.

Moldovan poet G. Viyeru will stand for the Romanian Senate from the Democratic National Salvation Front. M. Druc and Yu. Roshka, leaders of the Moldovan Christian Democratic People's Front, and this movement's active supporters, the poetess L. Lari and N. Dabizha, as well as I. Kostas, former Moldovan defense minister, are being named above all as likely parliamentarians in Bucharest. Most of them have already been given Romanian citizenship recently.

The Romania Mare Party and the Ecological Movement of Romania, as well as certain political formations within the opposition Democratic Convention of Romania, intend to "have their own Moldovans" in the parliament.

Druc Supporters Meet 'Difficulties'

PM2408131192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 4

[ITAR-TASS report: "Mircea Druc's Supporters Find Campaigning Difficult in Romania"]

[Text] The supporters of former Moldovan Premier Mircea Druc, who have been collecting signatures in support of his candidacy for the post of Romanian president, have come up against some unexpected difficulties.

The newspaper CURIERUL NATIONAL reports that, in several parts of Bucharest, Romanian citizens have been dispersing activists from the Christian Democratic People's Front of Moldova who had been collecting signatures in favor of M. Druc, who has decided to run as an independent in the coming presidential elections.

Popular Front on Union With Romania

LD2608123292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0753 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau August 26 TASS—Mircea Druk, leader of the Christian Democratic Popular Front of Moldova, has stated that the optimum moment for a union of Romania and Moldova has been passed.

During a meeting with voters in the Romanian city of Constanta as a candidate for the Romanian presidency, Druk nevertheless emphasised that "hope is living on and a future merger of the two states is not subject to doubt," the Chisinau-based newspaper "TSARA" reported today.

At the same time Jurie Rosca, another leader of the front, stated in the same edition of the newspaper "that it is essential to direct all energies towards such a union precisely now that borders in this region of Europe are being adjusted."

"It is a sin to miss such a chance, since history would hardly give us another chance," Rosca emphasised.

Speaking at a symposium of the National Unification Council in Bucovina, Rosca stressed that people thinking like him would try to bring Bessarabia and North Bucovina back to Romania.

Kazakhstan

Republic Sets Up Own Border Guards

PM2708125592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Vladimir Ardayev report: "Kazakh Border Troops Set Up"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—By decree of President N. Nazarbayev, border troops have been set up in Kazakhstan.

They were formed on the basis of Eastern Border District border formations stationed on the republic's territory. The Alma-Ata Higher Border Command School has also passed to Kazakh jurisdiction. Both the troops and the school, with all its staff, buildings, installations, stocks of arms, equipment, and other material resources are under the jurisdiction of the republic's National Security Committee. The border troops have been told to be guided by international treaties, agreements on border questions adopted by the CIS member states, and legal acts of the former USSR that are not in contravention of Kazakh legislation.

Lieutenant General Ye. Neverovskiy, who was in charge of the Eastern Border District over the last few years, has been appointed commander of the border troops and deputy chairman of the republic's National Security Committee.

Pakistan Grants Credit for Medicines, Goods

LD2808103892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Murat Buldekbayev]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 28 Aug (TASS)—Pakistan granted a 10-million U.S. dollar credit to Kazakhstan which will be used by the former Soviet republic to purchase Pakistani-made consumer goods, medicines, machinery and equipment.

A corresponding agreement was signed in the Kazakh capital by governmental representatives of the two countries on Friday [28 August].

The credit is issued for four years plus one year in delay of repayments.

Pakistan will also finance the construction of a cement-producing plant in Kazakhstan. The project is estimated at 50 million roubles.

Tajikistan

Shaposhnikov May Send UN Forces to Conflict Area

LD2808075392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0545 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 28 Aug— There is a possibility that CIS Blue Helmets might be introduced into Tajikistan in the immediate future. Preliminary agreement on the use of the peacekeeping corps, acting in the republic as disengagement forces in the zone of the military conflict, was reached during the conversation between Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev and Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Shaposhnikov is here with a group of military experts at the personal invitation of the Tajik leader, who believes that the presence of the Blue Helmets within the framework of the collective security treaty is "the last chance for establishing peace in the long-suffering homeland, ravished by interethnic strife." [ITAR-TASS in English at 0830 GMT on 28 August in a similar report adds: "Military observers from three Commonwealth states and the CIS main command will not participate in military activities in Tajikistan, the republican defence committee said on Friday [28 August], denying rumours that the observers will be in command of the governmental forces."] The conversation was held behind closed doors, but it has become known from reliable sources that questions connected with the Blue Helmets' deployment and their number were discussed during the meeting.

At the same time, it was being invariably stressed that the peacekeeping subunits will be introduced into the conflict zone only after preliminary cease-fire agreements are reached between the leaders of the armed groups and that they will be carrying out their mission only in the capacity of disengagement forces, while maintaining strict neutrality. The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and the recent decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on putting the border troops under Russia's jurisdiction also were discussed. This morning, the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces traveled to the conflict zone, where he will examine the area for the possible deployment of the Blue Helmets, meet local authorities and leaders of the illegal armed formations, and fly along the border.

"We should make the best possible efforts to stabilize the situation on the border and in the republic as a whole," stated Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. "I believe that we are capable of using all our powers and reason to stop the bloodshed and find ways to settle the armed conflict."

Inspects Tajik-Afghan Border

LD2808111192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0936 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By HOVAR news agency correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev - TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 28 TASS—Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS Allied Armed Forces, who is visiting Tajikistan on the invitation of Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev, flew today over the state border along the Pyandzh and Moscow

directions, as well as some problem areas of the Kurgan-Tyubinskiy region. He was accompanied by military experts from the delegation, that came to Tajikistan together with him, and by Tajik military leaders.

Marshal Shaposhnikov and other members of the delegation discussed problems dealing with the arrival of military observers at the conflict zones and with the working out of concrete measures for enhancing the protection of the Tajik-Afghan border.

Border Guards Welcome Jurisdiction Transfer

LD2608215192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1046 GMT 26 Aug 92

[By "Khovar" correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 26 Aug—The officer's corps of the Tajikistan border guards units has welcomed Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's decree on the transfer of the border guards stationed in Tajikistan territory to Russian jurisdiction.

The "Khovar" agency correspondent was informed today at the command of the tactical group of the Central Asian border district that the implementation of this document will make it possible to considerably reinforce the southern border of the CIS countries, especially the Tajik-Afghan border, where the situation has been troubled of late: armed clashes of border violators with border details, the transportation of arms from Afghanistan, and instances of smuggling have become more frequent.

Usmon Condemns Decree

LD2708161892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1354 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—Tajik Vice Premier Davlat Usmon has described the Russian president's decision to take the border troops stationed on the territory of that Central Asian republic under Russia's jurisdiction "an encroachment upon the independence of a sovereign state." He stated this in Dushanbe to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, adding that other members of the cabinet of ministers "may not share" his opinion.

The vice premier said that although the question of defending state borders was examined during the ratification of the treaty on political, economic, and military cooperation when Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin visited Dushanbe, a final decision was not taken due to differences on a number of questions.

The bloc of unified democratic forces of Tajikistan also reacted very negatively to Boris Yeltsin's decree, although it refrained from making any written statements.

Boris Yeltsin's decree was met with approval and support in the border units. Thus, Aleksandr Suvorov, chief of the press service of the Russian Frontier Troops, spoke highly of it. This document will make it possible to resolve acute questions giving rise to serious concern among officers and all of the men of the frontier troops in Tajikistan, he told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

The complex situation in the region and the uncertainty over their social and legal status has placed frontier troops in a difficult situation, the officer noted. The situation has become especially aggravated in Tajikistan. The number of armed attempts to cross the frontier has risen sharply over the past month: In July alone there were 16 clashes between border troops and border violators, and there have been fatalities. At the same time, opposition to servicemen by local destructive forces has been stepped up. The command of the border troops directorate in Dushanbe noted that as well as inhabitants of Tajikistan, persons from other countries of the Commonwealth are also heading to Afghanistan for weapons.

Aleksandr Suvorov recalled that a group of experts worked in Tajikistan in July under the leadership of Aleksandr Shokhin. A protocol was signed between the governments of the two countries. The Tajik side requested that the republic's border with Afghanistan and China be guarded by Russian frontier troops. Now, Suvorov said, an intergovernmental agreement is being drawn up which will deal specifically with questions concerning their status and with supplies to them, and will define measures to give moral and material incentives to servicemen performing service in special conditions.

Kulyab District Reportedly Takes Up Arms

OW2708183292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A large crowd gathered in a sidewalk demonstration in the Kulyab district of Tajikstan to commemorate the recent death of the republic's General State Prosecutor Nurullo Khuvaydullayev. The demonstrators expressed their sympathy to the friends and family of the Khuvaydullayev and called on local authorities to immortalize him in a monument, having already named a street, school and square in Kulyab in his honor.

According to unofficial information the Kulyab district is being mobilized. Some 15,000 people have taken up arms, many regions of the district are already under the control of the self-armed Kulyab units.

IMF Aide Confident of Future Tajik Membership

LD2808104592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0625 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By TIA KHOVAR agency]

[Text] Dushanbe, 28 Aug (TASS)—A delegation of the International Monetary Fund ended its work in Tajikistan on Friday [28 August]. During ten days the delegation was holding negotiations with the leadership of Tajikistan and familiarizing itself with economic life of the republic in order to work out recommendations for its entrance into this international financial organization. Leader of the delegation Henry Laurie expressed confidence that Tajikistan will be able to become a member of the International Monetary Fund in 1992.

Turkmenistan

Atayev on Developing Ties With Russia, Iran

OW2708223792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Khalykberdi Atayev by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Problems & Opinions" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Correspondent: What importance do you attach to cooperation with Russia?

Atayev: Enormous. I believe that Turkmenistan and Russia must have a special relationship. We wish to have fraternal ties with Russia in earnest. For that there are all prerequisites and historical roots. Over the years we have lived together we had a chance to see that the Russian people have an open heart. One can count on them in bad times and they are ready to have relations with others on an equal footing.

The current treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Turkmenistan is really historic for us, because Turkmenistan has never had that kind of equitable relations with Russia before.

Q: What areas of cooperation are most important?

A: Defence is probably the most important area. Turkmenistan would have found itself in a precarious position, but for Russia. The two states have agreed to share the expenses related to the maintenance of Turkmenistan's armed forces, run by the joint command, which is extremely important. Geographically, it so happened that we guard Russia's southern borders and have common interests in the region. At the same time I must say that our treaties with Russia do not jeopardize the interests of other countries.

Q: What other countries are you going to strengthen relations with?

A: I believe that Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry must promote and strengthen economic ties with all countries in every possible way. Foreign partners can be certain that Turkmenistan is a democracy and that they can do business with it to mutual benefit.

Turkmenistan largely owes the growth of foreign investment in its economy to a far-sighted policy of its leaders, who have managed to maintain stability.

Of late we have stepped up our relations with Turkey, the United States and West European countries. In particular I would like to dwell on relations with Iran. I disagree with those who claim that the expansion of these relations may have "undesirable" consequences.

I fully share the opinion of the President of Turkmenistan on this issue. He believes that Turkmenistan which has a 15-hundred-kilometer-long border with Iran is "doomed" to have friendly and neighborly relations with it. I rule out any significant influence of the Muslim factor on Turkmenistan's relations with its neighbors. I believe that of all Central Asian republics of the former USSR Turkmenistan is least vulnerable to the influence of religion on politics.

As for Turkmenistan's foreign policies proper, I believe they will not undergo any serious changes.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Discusses Citizenship, Independence

OW2708212492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1754 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Exclusive interview with President Islam Karimov by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 1 Uzbekistan will be celebrating the first anniversary of its independence. In this connection President Islam Karimov has given an exclusive interview to IF [INTERFAX].

Corr.: During the past year a number of important legislative acts have been passed in Uzbekistan. What, in your opinion, are the main ones?

Islam Karimov: They are all connected with one another. But I would especially like to point out the laws and decrees putting an end to the alienation of our people from their culture and from the fruits of their labor. The Uzbek language has been given back its worthy status, although people of all other nationalities living in Uzbekistan have an equal right to their own cultural values.

I would also like to mention the law on citizenship, which gives anyone living in the republic, regardless of his nationality and of whether he knows the Uzbek language or not, a right to Uzbek citizenship. The law is based on democratic principles existing in any civilized society.

The Uzbek worker now feels master of his labor. I would like to stress here that the Uzbeks have long traditions of collectivism and solidarity. This, in particular, manifests itself in what we call "hoshar", which means joint work, when, for example, everyone in your village helps you build a new house, or when a canal has to be dug to irrigate a tract of arid land, or when a village has to be rebuilt after a natural calamity. But, at the same time, you have to assert your own personality, look after your own family and your own field or workshop.

We have given land allotments to more than 2.5 million people. They are not too large by Russian standards but we have limited resources, both of land and water, which means that we shouldn't be in a hurry to split up large tracts of farmland. The overall area of the allotments we have given to individual families is several hundred hectares. The size of an average allotment is a quarter of a hectare. But our peasants have been making the most of these tiny bits of land gathering in three, and sometimes four harvests a year. That's a great help for every family, and has had its influence on the market as well.

Karimov's Experts Approve of Ukraine Visit

OW2708212692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1754 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov's experts have given a high appraisal of his meetings with his Ukrainian counterpart, Leonid Kravchuk. "Direct contacts between republics are one of the most important achievements of their independence," the experts believe.

In their opinion, the treaty on the fundamentals of relations between Uzbekistan and Ukraine not only confirms the fruitfulness of their traditional links but opens "new prospects for their friendship and cooperation in all fields." They attach special importance to agreements on specific subjects, for instance those on cooperation in the aircraft industry.

The experts think the ties between Uzbekistan and Ukraine are important not only for those two states. An agreement allowing the two countries to use each other's territory for transit provides Uzbekistan with an additional link with Europe, and gives Ukraine wider access to Asia.

Conversion of Plant to Commercial Aircraft Noted

PM2108133092 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by M. Ganiyev]

[Text] [Ganiyev] This is the assembly shop at the Tashkent "Chkalov" aviation production association. Conversion has compelled the collective to refuse military orders and, while continuing the production of transport aircraft, the plant workers have embarked on the production of a small passenger aircraft, the Il-114. On the domestic lines of the CIS states it will replace the obsolete An-24 and Yak-40. The fundamentally new multiblade engines are far more powerful and economical and, most important, noiseless, which complies with international norms. That is, the aircraft can also be sold to developed countries. It can land and take off even at unsurfaced airports. The pilot's cabin has been simplified as much as possible. Many instruments have been replaced by computers. All information is displayed on monitor screens. Why, in contrast to other aircraft, does this one carry two flags—Russian and Uzbek—on board?

[V.N. Muravlev, general director of the association] These two flags sybmolize the unity without which it would have been impossible to build the IL-114 aircraft. It is being built not only by Russia and Uzbekistan but also by other CIS states. According to the plans for the first quarter of next year, the Ilyushin experimental design bureau should receive a certificate which will pave the way to series production.

Authorities Destroy Opium Plantations

LD2708204592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Uzbekistan's internal affairs bodies have carried out an operation called Black Poppy. ITAR-TASS reports that during the operation about 10 hectares of opium plantations were destroyed.

This year, antidrug specialists have destroyed 3,200 plots—a total of 150 hectares—sown to poppies. Almost 1,500 criminal cases have been instituted, one-third more than last year.

Armenia

More on CSCE Representative's Talks, Stance

OW2708133892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent A. Borodin, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Rome and Minsk conference on a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh M. Rafaelli has conferred with the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan who supported his plan for a 60-day truce in the conflict zone.

According to M. Rafaelli, if reaction to his proposal is positive, it will become possible to renew "the Minsk process" and conduct the conference itself in the capital of Belarus. Otherwise, he pointed out, the prospects for onward movement in the cause of settlement will prove to be "extremely vague".

For his part the Armenian leader reaffirmed his willingness to contribute to "any step in the direction of a political solution to the Karabakh crisis".

At the same time he expressed concern about the lack of "clear guarantees", in which he included compliance with the agreement to send international observers to the conflict zone.

M. Rafaelli explained that delay in resolving this problem was caused by the difference in Armenia's and Azerbaijan's approaches to this issue.

As it is, Azerbaijan insists on resolving this aspect of the problem in the framework of bilateral talks with Armenia.

L. Ter-Petrosyan views such attitude to the problem as artificial. "Azerbaijan", he told the head of the CSCE mission, "is doing all it can to involve Armenia in the war, but if a truce is announced, we'll be able to bear responsibility only for ourselves".

The President said with satisfaction that "a number of countries have already expressed their willingness to send observers to Karabakh at once, if the talks in Alma Ata yield positive results".

Ter-Petrosyan Agrees to Cease-Fire

LD2708205192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2023 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan August 27 TASS—Armenia has immediately and unconditionally accepted the proposal of 60-day cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh made by Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the Minsk Conference of the CSCE for the Karabakh settlement. Ruben Shugaryan, press secretary of the Armenian president, said this on Thursday [27 August]. In an interview to TASS, he noted that in the opinion of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan this proposal is "extremely important in the present situation, but it lacks mechanisms of cease-fire".

The Armenian president believes that the absence of such mechanisms "should be compensated for by drawing international observers to monitor the observance of cease-fire agreement, specifically from Russia and Kazakhstan", the press secretary said. The Armenian president told Rafaelli that countries wishing so should send observers to the region under CSCE auspices, Shugaryan said.

Report on Armenian Letter to Azerbaijan Denied

NC2708191692 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Yerevan, 27 Aug (ARMENPRES)—The Azerbaijani mass media could be accused of everything except a lack of imagination. Let us remember just a few examples: They first announced the use of chemical weapons by the Armenians, which was refuted by the authoritative UN commission. Later they concocted the execution of the non-existent General Karo Karoyan. They declared that Mardakert is under Azerbaijani control when in fact it is under the control of the Armenian self-defense forces.

KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY reports, however, that the real masterpiece of disinformation has been published in the TURKISH TIMES in an article by Reber Besrogly. The article makes mention of an alleged letter sent to Abulfaz Elchibey "by Armenians who are peacefully coexisting with the Azerbaijanis in Khankendi [Stepanakert], Askeran, and Khanabad in Nagorno-Karabakh." According to the article, the existence of the letter was revealed by the Azerbaijani presidential press service.

Let us first of all note that for a long time now there have been no Azerbaijanis living in Askeran or Stepanakert. As to the content of the "letter", it exquisitely reveals the hidden motives of the Azerbaijani presidential press service. Here is its content: "Many mercenaries from Lebanon, Syria, France, and the United States who initially arrived in Yerevan are now settled in the Armenian villages of Karabakh. American blacks also are among them. These mercenaries are forcing the Armenian villagers to take up arms against their Azerbaijani neighbors. Those who refuse to comply are killed on the spot. Because of this they are killing more than 10 people a day. We the Armenians are defending your correct policy and accept the Azerbaijani Constitution, which granted us all our rights.

"Dear Elchibey, the present conflict has two causes: The first is that Russia handed its two military regiments to Armenia. The second is that Azerbaijan declared a cease-fire during the CSCE meeting in Helsinki. The Armenians made use of these advantages and with the help of the Russians organized new attacks."

All that is said here is lies, and excessive ones at that.

Karabakh Says Airspace Violations 'Threat'

NC2808112992 Yerevan SNARK in English 1016 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Stepanakert, 28 August (SNARK)—Today the press-centre of the Karabakh Supreme Soviet is authorized to state that any violation of the Karabakh air space will be considered by the Karabakh authorities as potential threat to the life and security of its population. There will be taken all the measures to prevent further violations of the air space. The Karabakh Government had to make such a declaration because of non-stopping barbarous bombings of Stepanakert and other settlements of republic, entailed death and destructions. These actions of Azerbaijan have only one aim—to exterminate the civilian population of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Further on Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh

NC2708203492 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Armenia's border rayons.

Azerbaijan is maintaining its aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh. Although the neighboring republic's leaders have agreed to hold talks, they are intensifying their occupation in order to [words indistinct]. The leading officials in Azerbaijan obviously have not relinquished their intention to resolve the Nagorno- Karabakh problem through military force. [passage indistinct]

The Azerbaijani usurpers frequently are using their air force to bomb Armenian positions. Their objective is to frighten the peaceful residents. [passage indistinct] Dozens of people have been killed or wounded as a result of the bombardment of Stepanakert and Mardakertskiy, Martuninskiy, Gadrutskiy, and Askeranskiy Rayons during the past day.

Azerbaijan's Su-25 assault aircraft attempted to bomb Stepanakert on 27 August. The aircraft approached the city but suddenly changed direction. They dropped two bombs on Martuninskiy Rayon. It is true Azerbaijan is widely using its air force units, but their penetration of Nagorno-Karabakh's airspace quickly will be obstructed. The necessary work is being carried out in that regard. Measures are being taken to defend Nagorno-Karabakh against air attacks. Three Su-25 aircraft and several helicopters have been hit during the past few days.

Clashes are continuing unabated in Mardakertskiy Rayon. Violent fighting took place close to Drmbon on 26 August and this morning. The Armenian side warded off the attacks and forced the enemy units to retreat. According to a disclosure by the Nagorno-Karabakh Self-Defense Headquarters, the Azerbaijani units lost many men near Drmbon. The Armenian self-defense forces maintain their control on Drmbon, Gyulyatag, [placename indistinct], Oratag, Mekhmana, and [placename indistinct] in Mardakertskiy Rayon. They also control the rayon's highway.

The Armenian self-defense forces are heroically fighting to evict the usurpers from their sacred land. The measures put into effect by the NKR [words indistinct] are yielding results. The Azerbaijani attacks have been obstructed, and the occupationist units have been forced to retreat in several areas. [passage indistinct]

The situation in the other parts of Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] continues to be tense. Martuni was fired on from Amiranlar, which has been turned into a military base, with Grad rockets on 26 August. A peaceful resident was killed and five houses were destroyed in the city. The defenders of the city intensively fired on the enemy positions. Damage was caused in Amiranlar. We have not received any information on casualties. [passage indistinct]

The Azerbaijani units intensively fired on Armenia's Vardenisskiy and Krasnoselskiy Rayons with various types of arms on 26 August. Several people were killed or wounded and several houses were destroyed in the two rayons. The Armenian side was forced to take retaliatory measures to silence the enemy.

Azerbaijan is massing armed units and military hardware in its border rayons. This indicates that it will embark on new provocative activities. Nevertheless, the aggressors must realize that their hostile activities will not remain unanswered.

Armenia's leaders and the Republic's parliament are making strenuous efforts to restore relations and establish security between the two countries. The problems between the two sides cannot be resolved by war. The dispute must be resolved through talks.

Control of Lachin Corridor Denied

NC2708202392 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Today AZERINFORM disseminated a statement by the Azerbaijani Presidential Press Service in which it is claimed that the Lachin corridor is under the full control of Azerbaijani National Army units.

The Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces headquarters and Gorisskiy Rayon Soviet informed an ARMENPRES correspondent that this claim is not true. It is another Azerbaijani propaganda attempt to present their wishes as accomplished facts.

The Armenians control the lifeline passing through Lachin, and the transportation of food, medicine, and humanitarian cargo from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh along this route is continuing. This lifeline also is being used to evacuate residents who have lost their homes in the air raids.

The second part of the Azerbaijani statement—to the effect that the Armenian side, aware that the Azerbaijanis are bombing only the military installations in Stepanakert, is intentionally settling peaceful residents near these installations—is an absurd claim and merely an ungraceful attempt to justify the barbaric bombing of Stepanakert's peaceful residents.

Minister Assesses Role of Russian Mercenaries

MK2708130192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Aug 92 p 3

[Interview with Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan and Presidential Adviser on Defense Vagan Shirkhanyan by Liana Minasyan; date and place not stated; under the general heading "War": "Sufficient Weapons Reserves for Many Years to Come—Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan and Presidential Adviser on Defense Vagan Shirkhanyan Reply to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's Questions"]

[Text] [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] How do weapons get into the region where war is going on?

[Shirkhanyan] As Azerbaijan and now Armenia, too, are being armed through Russia, from the very outset we proposed a zero arms parity option: no weapons to either side, and very strict control. As the Russian approach turned out to be different (although CIS chiefs have signed an agreement on collective security), a large quantity of weapons was transferred to Azerbaijan, although the transfer of hardware to Armenia was delayed. Russia's role consisted in continuing to increase the level of conflict. Then Armenia proposed simply that parity be maintained. Now the Azerbaijan Army has moved far ahead in terms of being equipped with modern heavy arms.

[Sarkisyan] The temptation for those who trade in weapons is enormous. The local command cannot control this process: Russian troops do not know their status, or what their rights are, or what they are obliged to do. And if an officer is in charge of a storehouse containing thousands of items of weaponry... Until such a time as status is defined—where the Russian Army is, where the Armenian Army is—until then, we will have divisible property. They no longer consider themselves masters here, and we are not yet masters either.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] What role is being played in this war by mercenaries? The Russian command has declared on several occasions that this is a personal matter for servicemen. Are they being taken to prison? Or is there no such thing as prisoner-of-war status in this war?

[Shirkhanyan] Of course it is their personal affair, if you ignore not only juridical but moral norms. They served in the Soviet Army, which no longer exists. In the Transcaucasus, war is going on between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and a Russian officer, who is on neither side in practice, hires out his services to, say, the Azerbaijan Army. Russia probably does not condemn this officially, as they are really quite pleased about the whole thing—it is all the same to them whether or not the troops happen to return to Russia, because that is just one more thing to worry about, and where will they get the money to provide for these officers and settle their families...? Whereas here, the problem can be solved on somebody else's money.

But if mercenaries kill children and women and burn villages, then why shouldn't they be treated like the enemy? The concept of the "prisoner-of-war" does not exist in this war. Because there is no actual war. We have not declared war on Azerbaijan, nor it on us, at least not officially. So we are "playing" at war. But we are suffering serious losses. And the Azerbaijanis are suffering losses. We are all losing good soldiers. Because the bad ones simply do not fight.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] The military are reluctant to talk about the atrocities in this war...

[Sarkisyan] This causes me great concern. Atrocity always begets atrocity, and this can lead to excesses. Once, we submitted a proposal via the Transcaucasus Military District for a meeting with Azerbaijan Defense Minister Gaziyev (I met with him in Tashkent, and he left a good impression). I do not know why he did not come, but I only wanted to discuss two questions with Gaziyev (the others cannot be settled between us, but in political circles): these were the questions of atrocities, and of preventing the disfigurement of corpses. Because that is barbaric. The guys who have died on both sides each have rights. They should be respected. But such things happen. I do not understand, nor do I want to understand, such conditions as the absence of prisoner-of-war status. War is going on, and there are prisoners, there are corpses, and they should be dealt with humanely.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] And is this same attitude adopted for mercenaries?

[Sarkisyan] No, of course not. If it is an Azerbaijani, then I can understand that his interests are called into play, but if, for example, it is a Slav or Chechen mercenary, then no. They are fighting for money, and this is amoral. To this day, I can say honestly that I, as an individual, have never hired servicemen. It may well be that our army is now fighting a little worse, but, in the first place, the army will gain experience in action, and second, the moral state of the troops is the most important thing, it is wrong to demoralize the troops. So far, this is not working in our favor, as there are pilots fighting on the Azerbaijani side...

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] And these pilots are not Azerbaijanis?

[Sarkisyan] No, of course not. They only had one Azerbaijani pilot, and his aircraft was shot down. I asked for him to be buried in Karabakh. And to this day they have shown no interest in him, nor, for some reason, have they asked for his body to be returned. And he was their hero.

In the first battles for Mardakert, very many Russian soldiers died. The figure is not even a matter of dozens, but more. Now the parents have started looking for a lot of them. I have here the papers for Lieutenant Sergey Gennadyevich Zladin. He served in Azerbaijan and died near the village of Drmbon. What was he doing there? The parents have asked that he be found, but he is already dead.

There are four Chechen prisoners. These were volunteers. One said that he lives with his mother, and their earnings are very low... They willingly went to prison. They say that the Azerbaijanis are paying them, but they themselves do not want to fight. A skirmish broke out between them. The piper, it would seem, calls the tune.

[Shirkhanyan] There are mixed forces in Karabakh, but there are no mercenaries fighting on our side. I am proud of this, and that is the truth—from the very first day, our guys have been fighting, dying, defending their own land. And they receive no money, unlike our opponent. The Azerbaijanis were paid right from day one—large sums of money. But today, as far as I have been informed, they are being forced to set up patrol detachments [zagradotryady] to prevent people from deserting from the battlefield. And they curse us like crazy for not wanting to send people to the front—we do not want extra bloodshed. That is another reason why there can still be no talk of mercenaries—they would be fighting alongside volunteers.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] The time of the fedayeen movement has passed, and so has the time of guerrilla warfare, so what is going on is a professional war...

[Sarkisyan] Of course, a real war has begun. Those who were in Afghanistan and who are able to draw a comparison say that it is harder to fight in Karabakh. But they are not born warriors, they become warriors. In the years when, at first, it was the Soviet Army which was fighting against them instead of the Azerbaijani Army, the people of Karabakh, of course, suffered many losses, but they learned how to fight. Thank you for that, if nothing else. Naturally, Azerbaijan has far greater forces, weapons, ammunition—incomparably more than in Karabakh. The professionalism of the fighters in Karabakh has been helped by the fact that they know what they are fighting for.

In Karabakh, 99 percent of those involved in the fighting are actual inhabitants of Karabakh. Each time, the Azerbaijanis regard this with suspicion. I can understand them: it is hard to believe that such a small people, 200,000 in all, can fight against such strength. But the people of Karabakh are a warrior people. Among them are many military men, including people who served in the former Soviet Army.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] There was an appeal from the Defense Ministry for Armenian servicemen to return to the republic and serve on its territory. What was the result? On what principles will the Armenian Army be built?

[Sarkisyan] Not everybody wants to leave what they have in Russia and stick their heads into our fire. But many officers are leaving a good service location where they, in their own words, did not get the same satisfaction as they do here, despite the sleepless nights. Those who have come are happy with their fate, because they know why they have done this. But ours is not a "full-blown" war, of course. In general, our officers are dealing with setting up the army. The border troops are professionals, and they are serving according to a contract, but the national army is being formed on draft principles. This takes a lot of time. Even for states which are not at war. Whereas we are having to fight on the borders and set up an army. An army is only a good army when it is in a strong state. And vice versa. But when the boat is rocking...

[Shirkhanyan] We are already setting up regular army units, we are not creating them for the war. In actual fact, we do not want to fight. I think that the Azerbaijanis have also had enough of this war, which cannot lead to victory. They must realize that the Armenians in Karabakh have to live on their own land. All lands should be returned to their real owners. This can be the only principle of peace. Now, so much evil has already accumulated in people's souls, and the image of the enemy has become so firmly fixed in the minds of Armenians and Azerbaijanis, that it has to stop. There are enough arms reserves for many years to come, thank God, as the former USSR manufactured so many... What is needed now is sufficient intelligence.

Government Discusses PRC Cooperation Prospects

OW2708181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yesterday's meeting in Yerevan between the Armenian Prime Minister, Khosrov Arutunyan, and members of the Chinese Light Industry Ministry delegation headed by the Minister, Zeng Xianlin, focused on economic cooperation, the Armenian government press service said.

The Chinese Minister said that his government was interested not only in Armenia's light industry, but also in its engineering, food and metal industries. The Chinese delegates pointed to the high quality of Armenian mineral waters and their medical properties and declared the intention to set up the production of plastic bottles for them in Armenia.

In turn, Khosrov Arutunyan pointed to the fact that the two countries' cooperation in research, particularly that in applied sciences, where Armenia has "a great potential", would be fruitful.

Azerbaijan

Armenian, Russian 'Concern' Over Ties With Iran

NC2708182092 Baku TURAN in English 1404 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 27 August, TURAN—Azeri well-informed circles are sure that it is the deep concern of both Russia and Armenia, caused by the fruitful visit of the Azeri foreign minister to Iran that looms at the bottom of the Kazakhstan president's offer to mediate the Azeri-Armenian negotiations in Alma-Ata.

As it is known, in Tehran the sides have signed a number of important agreements, such as on building of transport communications running through the Iranian territory to connect Azerbaijan with the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan, on fuel and electrical energy feeding [as received] that would grant Nakhichevan independence from transit supplies from Armenian.

It should be noted that only after the successful visit of the Azeri foreign minister to Iran, the Republic of Armenia has declared about its readiness to lift the blockade from Nakhichevan and Nazarbayev, in a line with that, invited the warring countries for negotiations.

Reports on Acceptance Into NATO Denied

NC2708210092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center has described as unfounded the press and news agency reports claiming that leading NATO officials have disclosed that Azerbaijan will be accepted as a member of that organization.

Foreign Minister Sends UN Message on Karabakh

LD2708223992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1910 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] UN, 27 Aug [dateline as received]—Azerbaijan intends to work for a peaceful settlement to the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and to assist in every way with the deepening of the talks process within the framework of the CSCE. This is stated in a message circulated on 27 August at the headquarters of the international community from Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov, addressed to the UN Security Council chairman.

The message says that the Republic of Azerbaijan has no territorial claims against anyone, and has the firm intention of constructing its policy in accordance with the principles of the UN and the CSCE.

The process of striving for a peaceful settlement within the CSCE framework has already yielded certain results, the message notes. On 24 August, with the purpose of continuing talks on signing a cease-fire agreement, Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the Minsk CSCE peace conference, and (Heikki Happonen), chief of this conference's group of cease-fire observers, arrived in the region with specific proposals to establish a 60-day cease-fire on the basis of CSCE drafts.

Azerbaijan expresses the hope that the cease-fire process started on 9 July but later interrupted "will be renewed again, thereby becoming a basis for a peaceful settlement whose main points have been determined by the decisions of the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Senior Officials of the CSCE."

The two missions dispatched to the region by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, in addition to the Security Council's support for CSCE actions, "have strengthened our confidence in a successful peaceful settlement within the CSCE framework, and this has prompted us to concentrate our efforts on developing the positive results already attained within the framework of this regional organization," the message says.

Adviser Urges Armenia To Admit Blame, Withdraw

LD2708201192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1517 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By Azerinform correspondent Khalil Imanov and Sabir Mirzoyev]

[Text] Baku, 27 Aug TASS—"The Azerbaijan side, while sharing the opinion of the UN Security Council regarding the worsening of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, at the same time considers that the blame for the new losses of life in the region of Azerbaijan and for the material damage inflicted as a result of the military action rests entirely on Armenia, without whose direct military intervention there would have been a real possibility in Nagorno- Karabakh of establishing peace and calm." This is the opinion of the Azerbaijan president's adviser on inter-ethnic issues, Idayat Orudzhev.

Commenting on a statement by the president of the Security Council, Li Daoyu, he said in an interview with Azerinform correspondents that "the conflict between the two republics can soon be eliminated if the Armenian side will admit the fact of aggression against Azerbaijan and withdraw its expeditionary force from the conquered territories of the republic."

The president's adviser also expressed confidence that, without outside intervention, it will be possible to reach agreement with the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh on the basis of the norms of the UN and CSCE. Expressing the view of the Azerbaijan leadership, Idayat Orudzhev noted that it is "willing to demonstrate today its goodwill and continue close cooperation with the Security Council and CSCE in order to achieve a political solution of the problem as quickly as possible."

Official Says Armenia Violated Railway Accord

LD2808113992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1105 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Dzhamilya Kulieva for TASS]

[Text] Baku August 28 TASS—Azerbaijan accused Armenia on Friday [28 August] of violating an intergovernmental agreement on restoring the railway track in Megrin area and providing safety for Azeri engineers.

"After a temporary lull since August 21 the shelling of Zangelan region of Azerbaijan where the railway passes has intensified of late", Vagid Akhmetov, first deputy prime minister told AZERINFORM.

The agreement also envisaged the resumption of electric power supplies along two transmission lines. However, Armenians switched off electricity on both lines several days after the supplies were resumed, he added.

Azerbaijan is fully ready to resume traffic along the railway. 25 trains were staying ready on the Mindzhevan station on August 26. However, they stay idle still.

Defense Ministry: Armenian Firing Intensifies

NC2708204092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center has reported the following:

Azerbaijan Armed Forces [AAF] units are reinforcing their positions in the areas taken from the enemy in Yukhary Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh]. Exchanges of fire are taking place between the positions in the southern part of the Sarsangsk Reservoir area.

The AAF units in Fizulinskiy Rayon have hit and disabled a truck loaded with military equipment, which was registered as 18 Zil 130, and two infantry combat vehicles. The vehicles were moving toward Gadrut.

The enemy has significantly intensified its firing on our positions and residential areas along the entire battle front. Agdam, Abdal, Gyulably, Papravend, and Kalaychylar in Agdamskiy Rayon; Dzhanyatag and Gyulyatag in Agdere [Mardakertskiy] Rayon; Fizulinskiy Rayon as a whole; and Tsur in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon were fired on from the Armenian positions in Yukhary Karabakh with various types of arms last night. Kokhne Kyshlakh in Akstafa Rayon; Mutudere and Mormor in Kedabekskiy Rayon; the border towns in Lachinskiy and Kubatlinskiy Rayons; Kazanchi, Seidlyar, and [placename indistinct] in Zangelanskiy Rayon; and Sadarak and the Badabad locality in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic were fired on from Armenia with various types of arms. Our fighters in Kedabekskiy Rayon returned fire, killing many enemy personnel and destroying a tank and four artillery pieces.

The situation in Kazakhskiy and Tauzskiy Rayons is relatively stable at present.

Force Threatened To Make Troop Train Go

NC2808105292 Baku TURAN in English 1419 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 27 August (TURAN)—It has been already reported that a troop train with the Russian forces, leaving for Russia, was arrested on August 24 at the Russian-Azeri frontier railway station of Hudat.

26 Coaches of the train contained 44 various armoured vehicles, 289 sub-machine guns, 200 pistols, mines, grenades and other arms. The troop train have been escorted 108 military men with 10 officers among them.

Yesterday, a group of the military out of the escort, being in a drunken state, made an ultimatum to the local population through the broadcasting centre, running that the troop train should leave the territory of Azerbaijan as soon as possible and if somebody tries to stop it, the military would use force.

The head of the troop train, Lieutenant-Colonel Karasev and the commander of the Azeri interior forces Fakhmin Hajiyev are negotiating the solution of the incident.

In accordance with the Russian-Azerbaijan agreement, signed three months ago, all arms of the military units of the former USSR, based on the territory of Azerbaijan, should be transferred into the possession of the Azeri Defence Ministry. In connection with that, any attempt of arms removal from the republic would be regarded in Baku as breaking of the agreement and would be stopped.

Elchibey Sees Meeting as Chance To Air Views

OW2708190492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey has said that "Azerbaijan sees the meeting in Alma-Ata as a chance to explain Baku's point of view on the Armenian-Azeri relations to the leadership of Kazakhstan".

President Elchibey believes that "the more countries are familiar with the real state of affairs, the more effective a future settlement of the conflict will be".

In the meantime reliable sources close to the republican Interior Ministry and Defence Ministry have concluded that Armenia has been trying to achieve a cease-fire for 60 days to gain time to regroup its forces in 'Upper (Northern) Karabakh'. "Local experts believe that Armenia is going to deploy in Nagorno-Karabakh the armored vehicles of two motorized infantry divisions,

received from the Russian armed forces last July [no close quotation marks as received].

Sources close to the presidential office say that proposals for a 60-day cease-fire have arrived not from the Conference on Security and Cooperation alone, but also from the Russian President Boris Yeltsin (in a letter to Elchibey). The same sources said Nazarbayev's initiative had the same underlying reason.

President on Moves To Bolster Border Controls

LD2808091792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0837 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 28 Aug (TASS)—Azerbaijan has taken measures to strengthen the protection of its state border. Under the new measures, the Azerbaijani president said in a statement, border check-points will be now manned along with frontier guards by customs, sanitary, veterinary and other officials. Special representatives of the committee for the defence of the state border of the republic will be in charge of coordination.

Other measures, designed to ensure the protection of Azerbaijan's state interests, include toughening control at border check-points, new rules for navigation in territorial and domestic waters of the republic.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Rules Out Immediate Cease-Fire

LD2708202192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 27 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Georgian State Council Chairman Shevardnadze has ruled out an immediate cease-fire in Abkhazia. In a letter to Yeltsin, he says that an armed offensive by more than 1,000 fighters from the Confederation of Caucasus Highland Peoples is the reason for this.

[Later in the same newscast, the announcer adds: "In apparent confirmation of Eduard Shevardnadze's claim, RIA reported today that a fresh detachment of volunteers has been despatched to Abkhazia from North Ossetia. RIA notes, however, that the numerical strength of the detachment was reduced from 400 to 62 since, according to (Yuriy Tsapanov), a member of the parliament of the Confederation of Highland Peoples, there is no need for a large number of armed men in Abkhazia before the meeting of the leaders of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia, and the North Caucasus republics."]

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Abkhaz Situation

NC2708173892 Yerevan SNARK in English 1456 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 August (SNARK)—In the interview given to the SNARK reporter, Eduard Shevardnadze has declared that he more than once appealed to Vladislav Ardzinba, the chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, to take active measures to avoid the confrontation between Georgians and Abkhazians, otherwise it will be the tragedy for both peoples. The situation should be detained. Eduard Shevardnadze has announced that he himself is against the armed solution of the conflict.

As to the visit of the representatives of Russian parliament, Shevardnadze has underlined that he had already expressed his suggestions and the position of the Georgian parliament on the problem of the conflict solution. During the phone conversation with Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, Shevardnadze has settled the problem of further meeting and has decided [on] the problem of temporarily closing the border between Russia and Georgia to cease the flow of the formations of the confederation of the peoples of the northern Caucasus to Abkhazia.

As to the facts of Armenian population discrimination, Eduard Shevardnadze has said that he hasn't denied that among the bandits there are representatives of the Georgian National Guard distributed in Abkhazia. The chairman of the state soviet has expressed his confidence that Georgians and Armenians will remain good neighbours.

Russian Ministry Statement on Abkhazia Welcomed

OW2708175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian State Council has very much welcomed the statement made by the Russian Ministry of Justice on August 26th on the situation in Abkhazia, according to the response made by the Georgian Ministry of Justice and the republic's State Committee for International Relations and Human Rights made on Thursday [27 August] in Tbilisi.

The Russian Ministry had stated, in particular, the following: that the Russian General Public Prosecutor "has every right to demand an enquiry into the unconstitutional behaviour of the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples and its leaders," volunteers from which are taking active participation in military activity on the Abkhazian side in the conflict with Georgia.

The Georgian Ministry of Justice hailed the statement made by its Russian colleagues as "evidence of the Russian government's intention to put a stop to the activities of the so called Confederation and expected Russia to take "swift and decisive steps" in this matter [quotation marks as received].

Georgian, Abkhaz Commanders Meet on Conflict

WA2808103792

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0900 GMT on 28 August reports that "according to an INTERFAX report, there was a meeting yesterday of the Georgian and Abkhaz National

Guard commanders. They discussed the possibilities of a cease-fire until 3 September, the date for the Moscow meeting on a settlement to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, a date proposed by Boris Yeltsin.

"INTERFAX has learned from informed sources that Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba has accepted an invitation from the Russian president to take part in that meeting."

However, Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 0730 GMT on 28 August reports: "Russian President Boris Yeltsin has proposed that the circle of participants in the Moscow meeting on settling the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia be broadened. A meeting between Yeltsin and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze is scheduled for 3 September in Moscow, with the participation of the Abkhazian side. The Russian president's priorities, an announcement from his press secretary says, are to end the bloodshed, to start the process of talks, and to create thereby the preconditions for a political settlement of the crisis.

"Speaking of the forthcoming meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on 3 September, Shevardnadze stated that he expects a great deal from it. He said he has again spoken on the telephone to Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ardzinba and again invited him to talks in Tbilisi. But Ardzinba declined, explaining his refusal by saying that the Abkhazian people would interpret that step as a retreat."

Meeting Held on Abkhaz Captives, Conflict

LD2708194792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1812 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya, freelance correspondent for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Adler (Krasnodar Kray), 27 Aug—Ways of surmounting the conflict in Abkhazia, conditions for the release of captives, and other issues have been discussed at a meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz sections of the Abkhaz parliament. The Georgian side was represented by Napoleon Meskhiya and the Abkhaz side by Konstantin Ozgan. The meeting took place today at Adler airport, on the border between Russia and Abkhazia.

The four-hour meeting behind closed doors "was on the whole useful," Napoleon Meskhiya told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He believes that such contacts will be continued. "The Russian Security Service and the Sochi municipal authorities helped to ensure that the meeting was held in a normal atmosphere," the representative of the Georgian side noted.

Abkhazia Sets Conditions for Peace Talks

LD2708221392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The People's Forum of Abkhazia has put forward two preliminary conditions for peace talks with Georgia: withdrawal of troops, and an independent international investigation of the facts behind the preparation and implementation of this intervention. This was stated today by Zurab Achba, leader of the forum.

Eduard Shevardnadze voiced regret that the efforts by the Georgian State Council to settle the conflict through a political dialogue have been unsuccessful, and expressed confidence in the success of talks with Boris Yeltsin which are scheduled, as is known, for 3 September.

Forum Notes Terms

OW2708174692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The Abkhazian leadership will negotiate with Georgia on the following two conditions: that troops are withdrawn and that an independent international enquiry is made into the circumstances of the intervention", the Abkhazian National Forum leader, Zurab Achba, stated at a Moscow press conference on Thursday [27 August]. He said that a resolution of the conflict would be possible only with assistance from Russia.

Achba paid particular attention to the fact that the Georgian military activity in Abkhazia was being carried out using ex-Russian forces arms and equipment. He stressed that under these conditions it would be most disadvantageous for Russia to transfer arms, finance and equipment from the Akhatsikh motor division to Georgia. Achba said that this transfer was due to take place before September 1st in accordance with an agreement already made.

Abkhaz Aide Says No Talks Until Forces Leave

MK2708175192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 26 Aug 92 p 1

[Interview with Vladislav Ardzinba, Abkhaz Supreme Soviet chairman's representative, by unnamed KURANTY correspondent by telephone from Gudauta; date not given: "V. Ardzinba: 'We Are Defending Our Soil' '—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet chairman's representative, has reported to a KURANTY correspondent by telephone from Gudauta, communications with which are one-way: It is possible to call Moscow from Gudauta but not the other way round.

The point is that Georgian artillery fire has damaged the communications center in Gagra, where sustained fighting has been going on for a week now. In general, the Abkhazian leadership itself telephones Moscow.

[Ardzinba] We will not enter into any talks with the Georgian leadership until all its armed formations, including police formations, leave Abkhazian territory.

[KURANTY] Have you received mediation proposals?

[Ardzinba] This proposal came from Ajarian Supreme Soviet Chairman Aslan Abashidze. He proposed to organize Abkhaz-Georgian talks in Batumi, guaranteed the immunity of the talks' participants, and even stated that he would agree to send his own family to Gudauta for the duration of the talks as a guarantee.

However, we rejected his proposal because no talks are possible until the Georgian troops have left Abkhazia.

[KURANTY] How is the Abkhazian leadership functioning?

[Ardzinba] At an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium an operations staff was set up which has all powers of executive authority on Abkhazian territory. Any kind of parallel collaborationist organs of authority (and the Georgian occupying troops are trying to set up such organs) are invalid and, moreover, harmful to the Abkhazian people.

[KURANTY] The Georgian Government forces have a strong advantage in weapons and men, but this is the sixth day that they have not been able to take Esher: The Abkhazian Guard is defending its soil, and this brings the guardsmen strength.

Release of Abkhaz Prisoners on 28 Aug Announced

LD2808080392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0727 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 28 TASS—Abkhazians taken prisoner by Georgian forces will be released on Friday [28 August], according to an order of the commander of the Georgian troops in Abkhazia Georgiy Karkarashvili.

However, only minors, women and elderly men are to be freed.

97 people were killed and 337 wounded in a fortnight of fighting in Abkhazia, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told the State Council late on Thursday quoting a report of the republican Health Ministry.

However, the figures do not include casualties in Gudauta from where the ministry failed to obtain any information.

Shevardnadze said he does not divide those killed into Georgians or Abkhazians are they are all children of one land—Georgia.

'Many Thousands' Rally for Peace in Tbilisi

LD2808002192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Aug—A rally of many thousands of people was held today in central Tbilisi, where dozens of nationalities reside. Local Georgians, Abkhazians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Chechens, Belarusians, Kabardins, Russians, and Jews spoke in favor of Georgia's territorial integrity and of establishing peace and national concord in Abkhazia. Participants in the rally resolutely protested the actions committed in Abkhazia by combatants from the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples, which has declared Tbilisi a zone open to terrorist acts.

Gamsakhurdia Offers Proposal on Abkhaz Crisis

OW2708141992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Not long ago, Georgia's ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia sent a letter to Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba which urges him to turn down the 1925 Constitution of Abkhazia and return to the Abkhazian Constitution of 1978. Gamsakhurdia believes that the implementation of his proposals will help settle the conflict in Abkhazia.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Attack National Guard

OW2708195492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As the Georgian Interior Ministry press center has told INTERFAX, about 100 armed supporters of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia Thursday [27 August] morning blocked the way of a National Guards battalion which was going from Abkhazia for manning, and demanded that the National Guards should hand in their weapons. When the guards refused to obey, the attackers opened fire and shot the battalion commander and chief of staff. Several men were wounded on both sides.

A rally by ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters (several hundreds to 2,000 according to different sources) took place in Zugdidi in the afternoon. One of the ex-president's associates, Loti Kabalia, addressed the rally describing the Georgian Armed Forces' actions in Abkhazia as aggression against the people of the autonomous republic.

The demonstators demanded the immediate withdrawal of Georgian Armed Forces from Abkhazia. They said that otherwise they would go to Abkhazia to fight on its side.

200 Chechen Volunteers March to Abkhazia

LD2708121692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1115 GMT 27 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol August 27 TASS—Trying to force their way to Abkhazia, in defiance of the existing ban, a 200-man group of Chechen volunteers captured as hostages two motor coaches with passengers on the approaches to Mineralnye Vody (the Caucasian mineral spas). The Chechens threatened to achieve their end by force during talks with senior officials of the local Interior Affairs Department and commanders of the Russian interior troops deployed in the area.

The hostages were released on agreement that the motor column would not proceed in the direction it initially wanted to go. However, having set free the hostages, the Chechens violated this agreement. They broke through to the mountainous Karachayevo-Cherkess republic and headed for alpine passes leading to the Black Sea coast.

Having displayed self-control, local militiamen and interior troops were able to prevent the situation from coming to a head and resulting in bloodshed.

The Stavropol territorial Interior Affairs Department has addressed a telegram to the Russian Interior Ministry asking it to organise a centralised collection of information on possible routes across the entire territory of the Northern Caucasus that could be used by volunteers to reach Abkhazia. The telegramme stresses the need to reinforce the contingent of Russian interior troops in Stavropol territory, particularly in the area of the Caucasian mineral spas and to provide them with armoured vehicles and helicopters for aerial reconnaissance.

Shevardnadze Receives Letter From Bush

OW2708175692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze has received a letter from US president George Bush which stressed that Shevardnadze's efforts to achieve national concord and democracy in Georgia were "most reassuring".

Bush expressed the hope that Shevardnadze's career, which has brought him great authority both at home and abroad, would continue. "You have our support and we are ready to assist Georgia in the transition to a new democratic system and a free market", the president added.

Yeltsin Military District Decree Welcomed

OW2708195992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy Commander of the Transcaucasian Military Region General Lieutenant Suffiyan Beppayev told IF [INTERFAX] that the order to transform the Region into a group of Russian forces has not yet taken effect. However, he considers that this decision would be a good one, since all major military formations in Russia have the status of group of forces.

The decree forming the group of Russian forces in Transcaucasia with its command in Tbilisi has been signed by President Boris Yeltsin.

Beppayev stressed that this change would not, however, affect the policy currently being followed by the Transcaucasian Military Region in the Transcaucasus, i.e. the policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

Beppayev described the new commander of the Region, General-Lieutenant Fedor Reut, as a highly professional serviceman. Until recently, he commanded the Transcaucasian Military Regional 7th Army which was stationed in Armenia.

Touching on events in Abkhazia, Beppayev pointed out that the situation there had been exacerbated by the arrival of militiamen from the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples in the Gudaut region where bandits are currently on the rampage and pillaging the local population, both Georgian and Abkhazian. Also the first signs of hunger have become apparent. The General said that the region's population is demanding the eviction of these so-called militiamen.

Shevardnadze Meets Russian Border Troop Officer

LD2808085492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0831 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 28 TASS—At the initiative of Chairman of the State Council of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze on Thursday [27 August] met Commander of the Transcaucasian Border District Major General Viktor Zemtsov. ITAR-TASS was told by a spokesman for the Russian Border Troops Colonel Aleksander Suvorov, that Shevardnadze raised during the talks several issues related to border troops. He, in particular, noted the commonality of interests of Russia and Georgia on matters of protection of the southern border.

Shevardnadze proposed that a draft agreement on the status of Russian border troops, located on the territory of Georgia, be prepared by September 1. He also said that he plans to discuss the status of Russian border troops at his meeting with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and the Russian Defence Minister.

Latvia

Godmanis To Reply at UN to Russian Propaganda

LD2708203592 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers, met today with Michael Phillips, the Canadian ambassador to Sweden, Latvia, and Lithuania. At the meeting, he announced that at the forthcoming UN session he will make a speech informing the world about the real situation regarding the withdrawal of the army and the question of human rights in Latvia to counterbalance Russia's propaganda campaign against the Baltic countries.

Responding to the ambassador's question about the progress of the talks with Russia, Ivars Godmanis emphasized that Latvia will not allow other states to interfere in its internal affairs and will never sign any agreement to legalize the status of the forces. The only talk can be about the withdrawal of the army.

Godmanis expressed anxiety about the view, which exists in the West, that the Baltics, including Latvia, are not observing human rights. He stated that this year only 17,000 people have left Latvia. In contrast, hundreds of thousands of refugees have left the Central Asian republics, but Latvia is not asking these countries to change their legislation.

There was also talk of Latvia's economic condition, acknowledging in particular, the catastrophic state of agriculture. The prime minister acknowledged that Latvia is also interested in buying grain from Canada; however, no specific agreement on this question was reached.

On 28 August, the Canadian ambassador will leave Latvia.

Godmanis May Be Denied

OW2708212892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1801 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Latvian official at the United Nations has said he doubts whether Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis will be able to address the forthcoming UN General Assembly session. As he spoke in the foreign affairs commission of the Latvian parliament, first Secretary of the Latvian UN mission Uldis Blukis recalled that only the heads of state, and not heads of government were entitled to speak at the UN session ahead of schedule.

As it has been reported, the Latvian Prime Minister said he was going to speak on the real human rights situation in Latvia and the problem of troop withdrawal from the republic.

The speaker of the Latvian parliament Anatolijs Gorbunovs is to address the UN General Assembly session on September 25. However, his trip to New York has been called in question by the law on the organization of the Latvian Supreme Council's activity until the elections to the Sejm. Under that act the speaker of parliament is not the head of state.

Godmanis Outlines Agricultural Problems

LD2808024192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Ivars Godmanis, leader of the Latvian Government, believes that it will be possible to settle accounts with farmers in the near future. This he announced today at a news conference speaking about issues addressed at the government meeting. The chairman of the Council of Ministers added that the plan worked out by the government is an extreme one; yet the money has to be found because the winter sowing depends on this, which in turn, will decide the fate of the next crop.

In Ivars Godmanis' words, the largest amount of debt, about 1.3 billion rubles, consists in production stored in state refrigerated stores and warehouses. [sentence as heard] The state has made purchases, thus forming a reserve fund; yet until now, it has not been possible to settle the question of payment. The budget does not provide funds for this, explained Ivars Godmanis. For this purpose it would not be possible to use foreign credits either, because the International Monetary Fund categorically opposes this.

The government, therefore, borrowed 12 million U.S. dollars from Latvian enterprises which are converted into rubles by the Bank of Latvia. As a result of this, in the words of the prime minister, 903 million rubles are at the disposal of the Ministry of Agriculture to pay off debts. About 6 billion of this will be assigned to the concern Latvijas Labiba [Latvian Grain] for grain purchases. This money must be given to farmers in the next few days because they must sow for winter. Of course, 6 billion will come nowhere near solving the problem. Therefore, Ivars Godmanis announced that the government has decided to convert into rubles, 6 million U.S. dollars which were intended as payments for various foreign debts. However they only have to be given at the end of September.

In order, once again, to recover the necessary sum, the government will be forced to make yet another borrowing. If this succeeds, we can settle accounts with the farmers, the government will have foodstuffs in reserve at its disposal, and we will also be able to settle the grain account, said Ivars Godmanis. In order to return the money borrowed from Latvian enterprises, the head of government thought, the grain, meat, and dairy products bought with it will have to be sold at convertible prices. If this gives rise to considerable price changes, then from 1 October, an increase in the basic minimum wage will be set, Ivars Godmanis announced.

Godmanis Meets Estonian Economic Advisor

LD2808022892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia, met Bo Kragh, counsellor to the Estonian Cabinet of Ministers on financial issues, who is also consultant to the Latvian Government. Expounding the financial policy of the present government, the head of the Latvian Government asked the expert to give his opinion on the possible resolution on monetary reform, which will curtail payment of wages and trading in foreign currency. Bo Kragh replied that he sees no economic basis for such a resolution; however, at the same time, he believes it could increase the inhabitants' confidence in the Latvian ruble. Later, Bo Kragh had working consultations with the Latvian Government's counsellors on matters of economic reform and finance.

Official Rules Out Recovery of Funds From Russia

LD2708193292 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] The funds invested in the Russian foreign economic bank and industrial development bank [Promstroybank] will not be returned for at least 10 ten years, until Russia is a flourishing country, Latvian Bank President Einars Repse told a BNS correspondent. He announced that all of Latvia's efforts to reach agreement with the Russian central bank leadership have ended in failure, as a result of the fact that this question remains linked to the distribution of the former USSR's foreign debt.

The president of the Bank of Latvia believes Russia seems to understand that it will not even attempt to pay back these funds. Besides, even from a legal point of view, Latvia cannot undertake to repay part of the former debt of the USSR because of the fact that Latvia was forcibly incorporated into the USSR. The same situation applies to the savings bank of the former USSR.

Russian Envoy Talks with Northwest Commander

LD2508203792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] Aleksandr Rannikh, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Russia to Latvia, today met Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Northwestern Military Group. As reported by the press center of the Northwestern Military Group, questions discussed at their talks concerned the presence of Russian troops on the territory of Latvia and the other Baltic countries, as well as their withdrawal from them. Aleksandr Rannikh settled the questions relating to the recovery of the Russian Embassy building.

Invesigation of Former Communist Official Noted

OW2608142692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1348 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The investigation into the lawsuit against the former first secretary of Latvia's Communist Party, Alfred Rubiks, is expected to finish on October 23, Deputy Procurator General of the Latvian Republic, Jazeps Ancans, said in an interview to a Baltfax correspondent.

In his words, the Alfred Rubiks who was put into custody on August 23, 1991, is charged with control over the operations of OMON (riot police special detachment) and army units for capturing strategically important installations and conspiracy with the August coup attempt organizers.

If Mr Rubiks is found guilty as charged, Jazeps Ancans says, his will be sentenced for 10 to 15 years of imprisonments.

Rubiks Refuses To Testify

LD2808123792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] The former first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia, Alfreds Rubiks, who was arrested on 23 August last year on charges of (?hostile) activity, according to Paragraph 29 of the Criminal Code of the Latvian SSR, is declining to testify because it is not clear to him what he is accused of. [BALTFAX in English at 1802 GMT on 27 August in a similar report adds: "The lawyer says that before January 1992 all the files contained the charge of high treason, a crime against the USSR. In January, when a new criminal code was effected, the wording of the charge was changed to "activity aimed at overthrowing the authorities of the Latvian republic". Rubiks refused to recognize that those authorities existed in the republic at the moment of his arrest."] A BALTIC NEWS SERVICE correspondent was informed of this by Alfreds Rubiks' lawyer, Aleksandr Ogurtsov. Alfreds Rubiks is reportedly willing to reply to any questions from the press, but not to the procuracy, since the latter has not informed him of the nature of the charge. Rubiks is said to have officially presented a request to the procuracy for permission to meet representatives of the press. At the moment, it all depends on the procuracy. Ogurtsov believes that because of the approaching trial, it would now be desirable to hold a news conference.